

STARS AND STRIPES®



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Volume 2, No. 148 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2004

Long road to Iraq

2nd BCT drives north from Kuwait
for its new duty in combat zone

Page 4



A soldier from the 2nd ID's 2nd Forward Support Battalion sleeps at Navistar while waiting to move into Iraq. The convoy reached its new destination with little incident.

SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Russia mourns 323 killed in siege

Putin: School attack aimed
at sparking ethnic conflict

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AP

California safety Ryan Cutierrez, left, pulls down Air Force quarterback Shaun Carney after a short run in the first quarter of a non-conference contest in Falcon Stadium at Air Force Academy, Colo., on Saturday.

**Getting back
to the gridiron**

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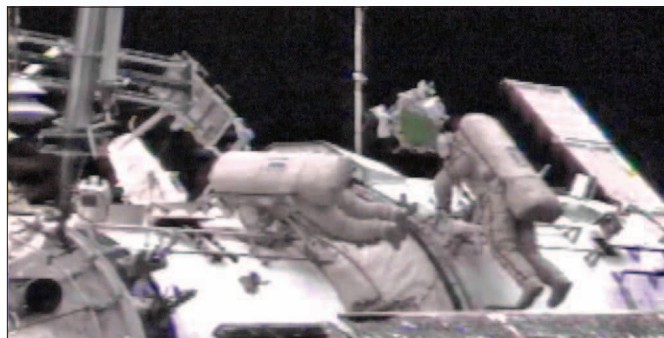
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news



Spacewalk: Leaving their orbiting outpost unmanned, the international space station's two astronauts floated outside on a spacewalk Friday and plugged in new antennas and replaced a worn-out piece of cooling equipment. Gennady Padalka and Mike Fincke installed three antennas for a new type of cargo carrier to be launched by the European Space Agency to the space station late next year and replaced a 2-foot-square Russian pump panel, part of a critical system for cooling station equipment.

World

Japanese prince in hiding: Japan's Crown Princess Masako, who is recovering from a psychological disorder brought on by the pressures of royal life, left her Tokyo residence for the first time in four months on Saturday to visit Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, an official said.

Crown Prince Naruhito accompanied his wife on the visit to the Imperial Palace, which lasted about an hour, the Imperial Household Agency said. Dressed in a beige suit, Masako smiled and waved to reporters as a silver sedan carried her and Naruhito through the palace gate.

Masako, 40, has a stress-induced adjustment disorder and has experienced bouts of depression and anxiety, the agency said in July. She was undergoing counseling and taking prescription drugs, it said.



Masako

Palestine vote: Palestinians launched a voter registration drive Saturday, a first step toward long-overdue elections, and Yasser Arafat promised that voting for parliament and president would take place this winter.

Arafat was one of the first of some 1.8 million eligible voters to register, presenting his passport at a polling station in his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The Palestinian leader, confined to the compound by Israel for more than two years, gave the building as his address.

Japan nuclear accident: Dozens of police officers on Saturday raided the Tokyo offices of Kansai Electric at the site of Japan's worst nuclear plant accident as part of a criminal investigation into the tragedy that killed five people last month, an official said.

The electric utility and Nihon Arm Co., an affiliated company, are under investigation on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in death and injury following the Aug. 9 accident at the Mihama nuclear power plant, said Shuichi Nosaka, deputy head of Tsuruga city police.

West Nile virus: A woman in the northern border state of Sonora became the first Mex-

ican of the year to contract West Nile virus, but received treatment and is expected to recover, the Health Department said Friday.

The victim, whose name was not released, fell ill July 6 in Etchojoa, Sonora, Dr. Francisco Javier Navarro, the Health Department's director of community services, said in a statement.

After 15 days of hospital treatment, the victim was released and was expected to make a full recovery at home, it said.

States

Bird flu: Cats not only can catch the deadly bird flu but can spread it to other felines, Dutch researchers said in a report that raises important questions about the pets' role in outbreaks.

So far, cats have not been implicated in the spread of avian flu to people, said Dr. Klaus Stohr, the World Health Organization's influenza chief, from Washington, D.C.

There are two potential reasons, he said Thursday. "One is nobody looked. The other is they don't play a role" because infected cats do not shed nearly as much virus as do infected poultry, Stohr said.

Nader campaign: Ralph Nader should be allowed on the Michigan ballot as an independent candidate for president, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled Friday.

Nader earlier had lost a bid to get on the Michigan ballot as the Reform Party's presidential candidate.



Nader

U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman ruled Wednesday that Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land could not be expected to decide which of two rival Reform Party factions in Michigan was the proper representative. One has nominated Nader, but Land has said she wouldn't recognize the nomination until the two factions decide which one was the legitimate representative.

In Virginia, state elections officials won't know until Tuesday whether Nader has qualified for the ballot. Also, Nader has qualified to be a write-in candidate in Massachusetts.

Polygamist conviction: The Utah Supreme

Court on Friday denied an appeal from a man convicted of having five wives who argued that anti-bigamy laws violated his First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Attorney John Bucher had argued polygamy was part of Tom Green's religion, and that Utah's laws for cohabitation were so vague that Green had no way to know he was in violation.

FCC Super Bowl fines: The Federal Communications Commission is set to vote unanimously for a record-setting fine against CBS-owned stations for violating broadcast decency standards with the network's January breast-baring Super Bowl halftime show, though some commissioners are expected to say the fines are not severe enough, FCC sources said.

The \$550,000 indecency fine would be the largest levied against a television broadcaster. The decision could be released as early as next week but may come the week after, said the sources, who would not speak for attribution because the vote has not been made public. The amount represents a \$2.7 million fine directed at each of the 20 television stations owned by CBS, which in turn is owned by Viacom Inc.

Michael Jackson case: Michael Jackson, facing child-molestation allegations, acknowledged he has reached financial settlements with people in the past to avoid the embarrassment of going to court, but added he would never harm a child.

The six-paragraph statement was released hours before the broadcast of a lengthy television report alleging that the entertainer paid \$2 million to the son of an employee at his Neverland Ranch in 1990 to avoid a child-molestation accusation.

Richmond flooding: Almost none of the businesses or apartment buildings in the area ravaged Monday night by flooding caused by Tropical Storm Gaston insured themselves against the more than 10 feet of filthy, surging water that devastated their homes and businesses.

President Bush approved a request for federal disaster aid for individuals and businesses that experienced the ravages of the storm. The president approved the aid for the hard-hit cities of Richmond, Hopewell, Colonial Heights and Petersburg, as well as the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Henrico and Prince George.

Stories and photos from wire services

Suicide bomber kills at least 20 in Kirkuk

U.S., Iraqi troops start operation to root out suspected militant cell

BY YEHEA BARZANJI
The Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq — A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb Saturday outside a police academy in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk as hundreds of trainees and civilians were leaving for the day, killing at least 20 people and wounding 36, authorities said.

Separately, U.S. and Iraqi forces clashed with insurgents in another part of northern Iraq after launching an operation to destroy an alleged militant cell in the town of Tal Afar, the U.S. military said. At least nine people were killed and 50 injured, hospital officials said.

Ambulances raced to the scene of the blast in Kirkuk, where seven cars were ablaze. Rescue personnel ferried the wounded away on stretchers. Some waited for attention while sprawled on the building's steps.

"This is a terrorist act against members of Iraqi police who were heading to their homes," said Kirkuk police Col. Sarhat Qadir. Iraqi police sealed off roads leading to the blast site. Iraqi police fired warning shots into the air to disperse weeping and frustrated people racing to the area to learn the fate of their relatives.

Gen. Torhan Abdul-Rahman Yousif, the director of Kirkuk police, put the death toll at 20, with 36 others wounded.

Saturday's bombing was the latest in a string of attacks specifically targeting Iraqis working for the U.S.-backed interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Insurgents see police as collaborators with coalition forces, who are struggling to restore order. Militants have blown up police stations all over the country, gunned down officers in drive-by shootings and battered police stations with mortar barrages and rocket-propelled grenades.

In Tal Afar, about 120 miles northwest of Kirkuk, a U.S. Kiowa helicopter was hit by enemy fire and forced to make an emergency landing amid the fighting, said U.S. Army Capt. Angela Bowman. The aircraft's two crewmembers were wounded, she said.



Policemen look at a vehicle damaged by a car bomb which exploded, killing at least 20 and wounded 36 others, in Kirkuk, Iraq, on Saturday. A suicide attacker detonated the bomb outside a police academy as hundreds of trainees and civilians were leaving for the day.

At least eight people died and another 50 were wounded in the city, said Fawazi Mohammed, the head of the local hospital. Many of the casualties occurred when a mortar shell hit a marketplace, authorities said.

American soldiers killed two insurgents and captured another, while three Iraqi national guardsmen were injured in the fighting, the military said.

A U.S. Stryker Brigade vehicle securing the rocketeer's site later came under attack by rocket-propelled grenades, the military said. Troops fought back, killing two attackers.

A warplane dropped a bomb near the town, after soldiers on the ground called for air support, the military said.

U.S. intelligence believes Tal Afar is being used as a haven by insurgents smuggling men and arms into Iraq from nearby Syria. It opted to launch the Saturday operation in a bid to flush them out, the military said.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, several mortar rounds landed near a checkpoint in the Iraqi capital Saturday close to the heavily fortified International Zone, which houses Iraqi government offices and the U.S. Embassy, a

spokeswoman for coalition forces in Baghdad said.

It was not immediately known whether the shells caused any casualties.

Mortar rounds also exploded near the Al-Rashid hotel, not far from the International Zone, the spokeswoman said.

Also Saturday, saboteurs also blew up an oil pipeline in southern Iraq, the latest attack targeting the country's crucial oil industry, police and oil officials said.

Firefighters struggled to put out the blaze caused by the explosion near Hartha, 19 miles north of Basra, and technicians were forced to shut down the pipeline, said police Maj. Col. Nouri Mohammed.

The pipeline carried 15,000 barrels of crude a day from the Nahran Amn oilfields to an export storage tank called Zubayr-1 in the Faw peninsula, and its shutdown is not expected to significantly affect Iraq's overall exports of 1.9 million barrels a day.

Separately, France's interior minister insisted Saturday that signs still point to a release soon for two French journalists held hostage in Iraq but suggested that insecurity there was complicating the process.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 976 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department.

Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 838 U.S. servicemen have died — 621 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military or family members:

■ Army Spc. Joseph C. Thibodeaux III, 24, Lafayette, La., died in a mortar attack in northern Iraq when a sniper shot him after his vehicle became disabled; assigned to the Army's 25th Infantry Division; Hawaii.

U.S. military avoids abasing arrest tactics in Iraq

BY JIM KRANE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military is avoiding once-common arrest techniques like bagging suspects' heads, the U.S. commander in charge of the Iraqi capital said, because such actions are considered humiliating by Iraqis and pushing new recruits into the insurgency.

"You've got to see it from a force protection standpoint," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli said. "When we mistreat one person, I've got a net increase of nine enemies."

Soldiers are told to avoid handcuffing or blindfolding suspects — often done by placing a cloth sack over a suspect's head — in front of their families, said Chiarelli, who commands the Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, which controls security in Baghdad.

The Army's 1st Infantry Division, which guards a swath of the Sunni Arab homeland north of Baghdad, started a similar "digni-

ty and respect" initiative in April. Its commander, Maj. Gen. John Baptiste, asked soldiers to be more courteous at traffic checkpoints and to stop putting bags over detainees' heads, division spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said.

Especially insulting is the practice of subduing Iraqi men by stepping on them.

"The worst thing in the world is to put him on the ground and put your boot on his head," Chiarelli said Thursday at 1st Cavalry headquarters near Baghdad International Airport. "Honor is so critical in this society. You don't take away a man's honor."

Baghdad residents, asked about the changes, complained about the unpopular U.S. presence in Iraq, from the blocking of roads and bridges to aggressive driving and capricious detentions. Halting humiliating arrest techniques is a positive development, they said, but too little, too late.

"The detainee is not an animal to

put a bag over his head," said Qusai Talha, a 35-year-old laborer interviewed at Tahrir Square in central Baghdad. "Detention should be done politely, until the prisoner is proven guilty — or not. The Americans should have considered this from the start."

The division hired Iraqis to instruct the 32,000 U.S. troops under Chiarelli's command in the cultural traits and taboos of Iraq's 26 million inhabitants. Soldiers are told to separate a man being arrested from his family by asking him to go outside his home and speak to soldiers.

"If you really need to put him in flex cuffs, that's where you do it, not in front of his family," Chiarelli said. About 10 percent of the division's troops "just don't get it," the commander said, but most understand the importance of treating Iraqis with dignity, even those accused of killing Americans or others. If soldiers humiliate a man being arrested in front of his family or neighbors, word spreads and hostility swells.



A U.S. soldier puts his foot on a suspected Iraqi thief in Tikrit, Iraq, in May 2003. The U.S. military is now avoiding once-common arrest techniques like bagging suspects' heads or stepping on detainees' bodies while they're on the ground.



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion reach the end of an exhausting three-day convoy from their temporary base in Kuwait to their new home in Iraq.

Long, dusty drive into a war zone

Strike Force soldiers slip through desert, set up camp in Iraq

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The 2nd Infantry Division has hit the ground in Iraq after convoys and airlifts moved thousands of soldiers and vehicles from temporary bases in Kuwait over the past week.

The effort to move the soldiers and equipment was the culmination of months of training and a mammoth logistical operation to shift Strike Force's 2nd ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 3,600 soldiers and 1,800 vehicles to Iraq from bases near the South Korean demilitarized zone.

Spearheading the convoy effort were soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, who left Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on Aug. 25 for their new home in Iraq.

The first stop along the way was Navistar, a U.S. logistical base just south of the Iraqi border. There, the vehicles fueled up and soldiers got a few hours' sleep on top of their vehicles before their early-morning departure.

Early Wednesday morning, the first 2nd ID vehicles crossed a large ditch that marked the border and headed north along a modern six-lane freeway.

One of the soldiers, Spc. Deidre Parks, 20, of Philadelphia, rode shotgun on a palletized loading system full of ammunition. The young soldier said she was excited to start her first deployment in a combat zone.

"You hear all these stories about Iraqis attacking convoys. When we crossed the border, we were getting ready for it. You hear about convoys being attacked every day, so you prepare yourself for the situation that could happen. You are always on high alert," said Parks, who kept a keen lookout for roadside bombs as the convoy moved up the road, retracing the route to Baghdad that coalition invasion forces followed last year.

Each time the vehicles traveled under an overpass, the M-249 SAW gunner, 2nd Lt. Michael Kofman, 22, swiveled the turret on his Humvee 180 degrees to defend against an attack from above.

Kofman, who was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, before moving to the States at 10 years old, is a fire support officer with 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment but volunteered to man a SAW in the convoy so he could see more of southern Iraq. He was just as ex-

“You hear all these stories about Iraqis attacking convoys. When we crossed the border, we were getting ready for it.”

Spc. Deidre Parks
2nd Brigade Combat Team



Curious Iraqis came to see what was happening when a 2nd Forward Support Battalion convoy stopped somewhere west of Baghdad while driving in Iraq. At times during the long trip north, Iraqi children rushed up to the vehicle, giving thumbs-up signs and begging for gifts from the soldiers.

cited as Parks to be in country.

"I was in my senior year of college studying political science and attending [Reserve Officer Training Corps] when the Iraq invasion happened last year. I was watching it on television, and I was pretty jealous of the guys over there. They were doing the real Army thing, and I was stuck back in college," he said.

The first thing Kofman noticed after crossing the border was the difference between Iraqi cars and Kuwaiti vehicles.

"The Kuwaitis drive much nicer cars than the Iraqis," he said.

The convoy's next stop was Cedar 2, a U.S. base near Najaf, where Marines still were battling rebels. The base looked much the same as Navistar but

there was one important difference — air conditioned tents where the soldiers could sleep until the next morning.

During the night there was a change in plans. Commanders learned that, instead of taking the usual route north, the convoy was to travel an alternate route through an inhospitable wasteland to the west.

SEE CONVOY ON PAGE 5

Convoy: 2nd BCT reaches new base in Iraq

CONVOY, FROM PAGE 4

The last day's journey was the most challenging and took the convoy along a one-lane strip of asphalt that snaked deep into Iraq's western desert. At mid-morning the convoy had a "security stop," and vehicles pulled off into the sand on either side of the road.

Soldiers took up defensive positions and scanned the desert for signs of insurgents. They could see people foraging among the sand dunes for some unknown commodity, and soon children approached the vehicles to beg for food and water.

Sgt. Jesus Gonzalez, of 177th Finance Battalion, gripped his M-16 and stared at the horizon.

"It is my first time in the desert. I have got no idea how these people live here. I don't know what they eat, what they do. It doesn't make sense to me. It is like a beach without water. There must be something else here," he said.

Another soldier pulling security, Sgt. Carl Green, 40, of Pontiac, Mich., was ready to shoot to kill if any insurgents showed themselves. Last time he was in Iraq, Green survived a car bomb that wounded scores of his buddies from 101st Airborne at Talafar, he said.

"You can never be safe," he said. "You have always got to be on your guard. If any enemy had come up over those borms, I was

ready to shoot and kill at all times."

Two of the 2nd FSB trucks got stuck in the sand, and soldiers had to dig and tow them out, but within an hour the convoy was back on the road, which seemed to stretch on forever. There were no restroom breaks and soldiers relieved themselves in Gatorade bottles or off water containers while they drove.

The desert is so vast that at times the vehicles appeared to be stationary. A strange optical illusion made it appear as if the closest rocks and bushes moved one direction, and rocks and bushes near the horizon moved the other.

When the convoy passed a small town, children ran out to the side of the road giving the thumbs-up sign and holding up empty water bottles in the hope that something might be thrown from a vehicle.

Even in this wasteland, there were signs of economic activity. Trucks shifted rock from a quarry, farmers tended small fields around oases, and, near a large evaporating lake, people piled up large salt mounds that glistened in the sun beside the road.

In other places, there was evidence of the rich harvest that flows beneath the sand — oil that seeped up like blood through a bundage to form black pools on the ground.

There was evidence of past battles also: wrecked military equip-



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Jesus Gonzalez, of 177th Finance Battalion, scans the horizon somewhere west of Baghdad during a "security stop" while driving in a convoy into Iraq. The soldiers completed the long journey with minimal incident, taking direct fire from insurgents only once.

ment rusting in the dust, bullet-riddled concrete signs that may have once born portraits of Iraq's former ruler Saddam Hussein. Collapsed buildings marked the journey's end.

As the tired soldiers rolled into the camp where they will spend the next year, they marveled at the sand-filled barriers erected to ward off enemy attacks and the strange, twin-tailed Iraqi aircraft on display nearby. Strike Force asked Stripes not to reveal the

name of the camp or its location in this story.

One soldier was so exhausted and dehydrated from the move that he passed out on an intravenous drip.

For one 2nd FSB soldier, Sgt. Jaime Torres, 24, of Puerto Rico, it was a homecoming of sorts. He served there on one of two previous Iraq tours.

Torres said there were many improvements at the camp, including Moral, Welfare and Rec-

reation facilities for every company based there, more air conditioning and better force protection.

"The most you will see here is a mortar attack here or there. Small arms fire doesn't really happen. It is much safer than Fallujah," he said of his previous assignment with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Another new arrival, Staff Sgt. Glenn Howard of 2nd FSB, 29, from Atlanta, Ga., said the convoy was "hectic and draining."

"I got about two or three hours last night because I was PMCSing the vehicle," he said of the preventive maintenance checks and services soldiers must do before using a vehicle.

Sleep may have been a factor in three minor accidents and roll overs on other convoys that left one soldier nursing a broken wrist and another with a broken nose, an official said. By the time the last vehicle arrived on Tuesday morning, Strike Force reported only one direct fire attack and no roadside bomb attacks on its convoy.

Maj. Leon Plummer, 36 of South Bay, Fla., said the convoy was a success with minimal vehicle breakdowns.

"That is testament to the great maintenance program that started in South Korea and continued once the vehicles came off the boat," he said.

E-mail SETH ROBSON at: robson@pstrives.osd.mil

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Grafenwoehr	24-30 Sep
Hannau	17-23 Sep
Heidelberg	24-30 Sep
Hohenfels	01-07 Oct
Illshelm	15-21 Oct
Katterbach	08-14 Oct
Krieger	08-14 Oct
Kosovo	12-18 Nov
Lakenheath	24-30 Sep
Manheim	17-23 Sep
Mittelenhall	17-23 Sep
Ramstein Hercules	01-07 Oct
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Tuzla	29 Oct-04 Nov
Vaihingen	01-07 Oct
Vicenza	29 Oct-04 Nov
Vilseck	17-23 Sep
Vogelweh	17-23 Sep
Wiesbaden	24-30 Sep
Wuerzburg	17-23 Sep

AAFE

Rockets hit U.S. base, kill civilian

NATO troops seize weapons in Kabul

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four rockets landed near a U.S. base in an eastern Afghan city, killing one civilian and wounding three others, the American military said Saturday.

The rockets hit outside the base in Jalalabad, 80 miles east of the capital, Kabul, on Friday morning, U.S. spokesman Maj. Scott Nelson said.

U.S. forces provided first aid to some of the wounded, he said.

Rockets are frequently fired at Afghan and foreign military bases around the country, rarely hitting their targets but often wounding civilians.

With presidential elections set for Oct. 9, officials have warned that militants are likely to increase attacks. In the capital, a car bomb last week killed up to 10 people.

A spokesman for the NATO se-

curity force which patrols Kabul said Saturday that it had seized a truckload of weapons entering the city, including 67 rocket-propelled grenades and 42 hand grenades.

Lt. Cdr. Ken Mackillop didn't say when the truck was intercepted and declined to elaborate.

Meanwhile, Nelson said that a U.S. official, a U.S. soldier and two members of a private security firm were slightly injured in an explosion in southern Afghanistan on Friday.

Afghan officials initially said that the only victims were Afghans — the driver of a passing taxi, who was killed, and two injured passengers.

The officials said the blast was caused by a car bomb. But Nelson said an initial investigation showed that it was caused by a homemade bomb by the roadside, possibly including a mortar shell. "We don't know if it was a vehicle as it drove by," Nelson said.

Hearing to resume for GI accused of murder

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

After a six-week delay, a pre-trial hearing involving a U.S. military officer charged with murder in Iraq resumed Wednesday in Germany.

For Army Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet, the next few days will go a long way toward determining whether he stands a good chance of being exonerated or compelled to stand trial.

If the evidence implicates Maynulet, he faces the prospect of a court-martial, with a life sentence in the balance.

Maynulet is accused of murder and dereliction of duty stemming from the death of an Iraqi man May 21. Army prosecutors say Maynulet unlawfully shot the man near the cities of Najaf and Kufa, south of Baghdad.

At the time of the incident, Maynulet was commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment of the 1st Armored Division. He and members of his unit were searching for Shiite religious leader Muqtada al-Sadr, wanted by authorities for his apparent role in the killing of a rival cleric.

Details of the incident are still sketchy, though the Army did issue a statement on July 2.

"The charges stem from an incident in which U.S. forces near Kufa came into contact with a black sedan believed to contain militia forces," according to a U.S. Central Command news release.

"A chase began, and U.S. forces shot at the vehicle," the release

stated. "The driver and a passenger were killed. Shortly thereafter, the wounded driver was shot and killed at close range."

Capt. Will Helixon, Maynulet's defense attorney, contends that's not what really happened, especially in regard to the chase and how it all ended, but he declined to go into details.

A few days after the incident, the 29-year-old company commander was suspended. The Army filed charges against Maynulet on June 12. By the end of the month, an Article 32 hearing was convened in Baghdad.

Wednesday's session at Pioneer Casern in Hanau picks up where a second hearing left off in July. The Article 32 press, akin to a civilian grand jury, will help determine whether there is sufficient evidence for a court-martial.

At the last hearing in Hanau, one of Maynulet's former commanders, Col. Michael Ryan, testified on behalf of the young officer. He called Maynulet "an exceptional officer," a calm and steady troop, one destined to become "easily, a brigade commander or higher."

The hearing was delayed for more than a month because many of the witnesses, having just returned from Iraq, were on or going on leave.

At the end of the Article 32, a hearing officer will weigh the evidence against Maynulet and make a recommendation as to whether the case should proceed to trial.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mil.eastripes.osd.mil

Mourning the fallen



Roberta Brooks admires a bronze statue of a U.S. soldier in mourning dedicated to the 4th Infantry Division Memorial on Thursday, in Fort Hood, Texas. The statue was created from a melted statue of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, which was toppled during the war in Iraq.

Guardsman will appeal

SEATTLE — The life sentence given to a soldier convicted of trying to provide al-Qaida with information on the U.S. military almost guarantees the National Guardsman will appeal, legal experts said Friday.

Spc. Ryan G. Anderson, 27, a tank crew member whose 81st Armor Brigade unit is now in Iraq, was convicted Thursday on charges a military spokesman said amounted to attempted trea-

son. The terrorists he thought he was meeting with were undercover federal agents, prosecutors said.

A jury of nine commissioned officers from Fort Lewis recommended a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole, and dishonorable discharge. The maximum term would have been life without parole.

Pittman sentence

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A Marine reservist convicted of

abusing inmates in Iraq asked a jury to allow him to remain in the Corps, saying the only two things he loved more were his wife and daughter.

Sgt. Gary Pittman was sentenced Friday to 60 days of hard labor and demoted to the rank of private. He faced a maximum sentence of nine months in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

"This was about as light a punishment as they could give," said Pittman's civilian defense attorney, John Tranberg.

From The Associated Press



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pentagonchannel.mil

Vicenza is tops in car care

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — There's only one calendar hanging in the office of the auto skills center at Caserma Ederle.

It has nature scenes. And there aren't any posters of scantily clad women, either.

Charlie DeCelle, who runs the center, says that stereotypical image of garages isn't one that he wants to project. Besides, many of his customers would demand equal treatment.

"There are a lot of females who come in here," he said, with a gesture toward the main part of the center and its nine bays for cars in need.

The center went above and beyond the needs of the community in the last year and was recently rewarded for it.

Vicenza's now home to the best medium-sized auto skills center in the Army, according to the MW's 2004 recreation awards.

It's an honor that DeCelle and the other two employees of the shop — Howie Overacker and Larry Douglas — take pride in. "We're here for the customers," DeCelle said. "That's the bottom line."

Those customers have changed over the years and the center has tried to keep pace.

"Years ago, craft shops were



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Howie Overacker, one of three employees at Vicenza's auto skills center, looks at a car brought into the shop Wednesday. The center has been selected as the Army's best medium-sized facility for 2004.

Bo and Luke coming in and building their own race cars," he said. "It used to be that I'd sit behind the counter and hand out the tools, and if you didn't fix your car, it was your problem."

All three employees of the shop have taken several advanced training courses in car maintenance and the center boasts some expensive pieces of analytical equipment.

Much of that equipment doesn't get handed out to customers.

So the employees handle it. Most of the work is still done by the customers themselves, though.

"A guy could come in here and spend 20 minutes changing his oil or three weeks rebuilding his engine," DeCelle said. "There are no typical customers."

The center got dozens of new customers during the 173rd Air-

borne Brigade's deployment to Iraq.

DeCelle taught a series of free classes in auto maintenance to spouses and the center stepped up its efforts to keep their cars in good shape.

It also was instrumental in the base's massive efforts to put new license plates on all the vehicles registered in Vicenza. About 2,000 cars went through the shop in a two-week period.

"We basically shut down for a week," DeCelle said. It's the first time the center, built in 1999, won the contest.

The medium-sized category designation is based on the customers on base, not the number of employees. Fort Rucker, Ala., took the large-sized category. No small-sized winner was announced.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@starsandstripes.osd.mil

4 Navy SEALs face charges of abusing prisoners in Iraq

By SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Four Navy SEALs face charges and disciplinary action in a case involving prisoner abuse in Iraq, adding to the scandal of detainee abuse plaguing the Defense Department.

The four SEALs were charged Thursday with failure to report mistreatment of detainees to proper authorities, making false official statements to investigators, assault and aggravated assault, and solicitation to commit an offense, said Cmdr. Jeff Bender, spokesman for the Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego, Calif.

News of the charges were first made public Friday afternoon. The allegations surfaced when another SEAL, who no longer is part of the Navy's special forces and who himself faces unrelated disciplinary action, told officials investigating his case that he witnessed the abuse of detainees between October 2003 and April 2004, Bender said.

Bender could not disclose the nature of the allegations against

the one SEAL, but said it has nothing to do with prisoner abuse.

The alleged abuse by the four charged SEALs did not occur at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Bender said, which has been the source of much of the abuse scandal surrounding the Army that has led to a series of investigations by high-level defense, congressional and former defense officials.

However, Bender said because the investigation against the four is ongoing, he could not say where in Iraq the alleged abuse happened or provide any details surrounding the allegations.

Nor did he provide any information on the four SEAL because formal charge sheets against them have yet to be released, Bender said.

Those charge sheets, which should identify the SEALs by name, could be made public as early as this week.

No dates for any disciplinary hearings have been set, Bender said. The hearings are likely to take place in San Diego, where the SEALs are based, he said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontz@starsandstripes.osd.mil

1 GI dead, another hurt

A U.S. soldier was killed and another injured Friday during a training exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

The soldiers, members of the 54th Engineer Battalion, were on the training range late in the afternoon when "a tactical vehicle accident" occurred, according to a 7th Army Training Command news release.

Authorities are withholding the soldiers' names until their families have been notified.

However, the release did list the condition of the injured soldier as stable. He was taken by ambulance to Barmherzige Bruders Hospital in Regensburg.

The other soldier was evacuated by air to Regensburg University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 5:30 p.m., the release stated. Officials said the accident is under investigation.

From staff reports

Honoring those who answered

America's Call to Action

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Spectators watch the USS Razorback on Aug. 29 as it is towed down the Arkansas River to its new home on the banks of the river in Little Rock, Ark. The city bought the sub from Turkey for \$1.

Historic sub welcomed home

BY TOM PARSONS
The Associated Press

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Thousands of people gathered Sunday on the banks of the Arkansas River to welcome a historic U.S. submarine to its new home at the site of an inland maritime museum.

The USS Razorback is believed to be the world's longest-serving submarine, spending 31 years with the Turkish navy after the

Navy decommissioned and sold the vessel in 1970.

City officials in North Little Rock bought the submarine from Turkey for \$1 plus shipping costs to make it the centerpiece of the 10.5 million Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum.

About 7,500 cheering well-wishers welcomed the vessel, waving flags and listening to bands and speeches.

As the submarine approached

a barge where dozens of dignitaries waited, her top deck welined with Navy veterans. Mayor Patrick Hays rode atop the submarine's "sail," or conning tower, along with U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor and his four children.

"For years to come, the people of central Arkansas, and indeed, of the country, will be able to share a portion of the unbelievable story that is woven into the hull of this vessel," said Maj. Gen. Don Morrow, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard.

Capt. Aladdin Sevim of the Turkish navy, the last commander of the vessel under that nation's flag, received a hearty round of applause, as did the submarine's last two U.S. Navy commanders — retired Capt. Joseph T. Talbert Jr. and retired Capt. Ken Brown.

But the biggest applause by far went to Lawrence B. Cran, who served aboard the Razorback as a lieutenant commander in the closing days of World War II, stepping down in 1946 as executive officer, or second in command. He saluted the American flag at the ship's stern before stepping slowly down the gangway.

The 312-foot Razorback departed from Istanbul on May 5, towed by an ocean-going tugboat.

It was launched in 1944 and was one of 12 U.S. submarines present at the official Japanese surrender that ended World War II.

It was awarded five battle stars during World War II and four during the Vietnam War.



New senior enlisted soldier for V Corps

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

V Corps will welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Bush of the 1st Armored Division as the corps' new senior enlisted soldier during a ceremony Sept. 13.

Bush will replace Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce L. Likens during a 4 p.m. ceremony at Victory Park on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany.

Bush comes to V Corps after three years as the 1st AD command sergeant major. During his tour with the division, Bush deployed to southwest Asia for more than a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to a V Corps news release.

The outgoing command sergeant major has served as acting sergeant major for V Corps since February.

With the arrival of Bush, Likens will return to his position as command sergeant major of V Corps' 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.esr.mil

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IN THE WORLD

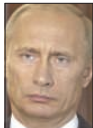
Russia grieves as death toll passes 300

BY MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — More than 340 people were killed in a southern Russian school that had been seized by militants, officials said Saturday, and President Vladimir Putin accused the attackers of trying to spark an ethnic conflict that would engulf Russia's troubled Caucasus Mountains region.

Regional Emergency Situations Minister Boris Dragozov said 323 victims, including 156 children, had been killed during the crisis in Beslan. Russian Deputy Prosecutor Sergei Fridinsky said that all 26 attackers had been eliminated.

Medical officials said more than 542 people including 336 children had been hospitalized as a result of the crisis, which ended in a wave of violence Friday. Commanders stormed the school and battled militants as crying children, some naked and covered with blood, managed to flee through explosions and gunfire.



Putin

See related stories on Page 10

after three days during which the hostage takers herded them into the gym, denied them food and water and threatened to kill them by detonating explosives they had rigged up.

Putin flew to Beslan before dawn on Saturday, as smoke was still rising from the shattered school.

"Even alongside the most cruel attacks of the past, this terrorist act occupies a special place because it was aimed at children," he said during a meeting with regional officials, which was broadcast on Russian television.

He stressed that security officials had not planned to storm the school — trying to fend off any potential criticism that the government side had provoked the bloodshed.

Russian authorities earlier said the bloody end to the standoff came after explosions apparently set off by the militants — possibly by accident — as emergency workers were entering the school to collect the bodies of slain hostages.

Some North Ossetians complained, however, that Putin's



Emergency workers collect corpses Saturday outside of the school that was the scene of a deadly hostage crisis in Beslan, North Ossetia. Officials said that 323 victims, including 156 children, had been killed, and that all 26 hostage-takers were dead.

visit was too little, too late.

"Why didn't he come earlier? ...

Why did he come in the middle of

the night?" said Irina Volkova, 33,

whose close friend and the friend's daughter were missing.

"He is the head of our country. He should answer for this before the people."

Later in the day, Putin addressed the nation and called for

a new approach to law enforcement in the wake of the crisis, and pledged the reform would be in accordance with the nation's constitution.

Putin said international terrorists had declared "a full-scale war" against Russia, and that due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the nation was weakened and unable to respond as effectively as it must.

"... [We] couldn't adequately react ... We showed weakness, and weak people are beaten."

He said measures would be taken to strengthen Russia's territorial integrity, create a more effective crisis management system, and overhaul the law enforcement organs.

ITAR-Tass quoted an unnamed, high-ranking intelligence official in southern Russia as saying that the school seizure and other major terrorist attacks in Russian had been financed by Abu Omar As-Seyf, an Arab who allegedly represents al-Qaida in Chechnya.

The official said that the operation was masterminded by rebel leader Shamil Basayev and led by field commander Magomed Yevloyev, who was believed to be the leader of the strict Wahhabi sect of Muslims in Ingushetia, which borders Chechnya.



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Messages of Support



Every day I pray for the safe return of all who are so brave and dedicated to this war effort. As the song goes, "Onward Christian Soldiers". I never really thought about the words to this song, however, it seems so appropriate in this instance, I ask that God will guide and protect you in your valiant effort to help the helpless. I also pray that our country will rally around our President, despite their own individual thoughts regarding the war. He and you all need to know that we support you one hundred percent, and look forward to your safe return to the land of the free and the home of the brave.



To all of the American Troops - I just want you to know that I, along with so many other Americans, are so proud of what you are doing. We thank you and have you in our thoughts and prayers constantly. You are doing a wonderful thing, don't forget that. We support you 100%. Keep up the good work and I hope you are home soon! Be safe and GOD BLESS AMERICA! Love Your American Friends, Lisa, Ken, Kayla & Kale

Mother forced to choose between her two children

BY KIM MURPHY
Los Angeles Times

BESLAN, Russia — For the first time in 24 hours, Zalina Dzandarova stopped feeling dead inside Friday. She had her daughter back — covered with blood, and suffering from shock and dehydration. But alive.

A day earlier, cruel hostage-takers had forced the 27-year-old mother of two to leave the sobbing 6-year-old behind at Middle School No. 1. Only if she abandoned Alana, they told her, could Dzandarova carry her 2-year-old son with her to freedom.

Haunted by the impossible choice, Dzandarova spent all of Thursday night imagining what was happening to Alana in the school gymnasium with 1,000 other terrified children and parents. She blamed herself.

"I know that I will never be able to forget this," she said. "I will never be the same."

Alana told her mother she was

saved from the burning gymnasium by a 15-year-old boy, a fellow hostage. "According to her, when the explosions sounded, she just hurled her arms around him and begged, 'Please don't leave me behind' — the same words she had uttered to her mother 24 hours earlier."

"She just held on tight to that boy. If it had not been for him, I would probably never see my girl again," Dzandarova said.

Standing Friday night outside the hospital where Alana was being treated after escaping from the school, Dzandarova said: "I still can't believe that everything is over now, and both my kids are alive — this is a real miracle."

More than 340 hostages — about half of them children — died in the violent end to the three-day siege by suspected Chechen rebels. Five hundred forty-two others were wounded.

"She was extremely happy to see me and be back with her family again," Dzandarova said. "We

hugged each other and just felt like one single whole that was put back together again, after having been apart." Dzandarova said Alana wants to tell her about all the things that happened after Dzandarova left the gym — a subject that is far too painful for her mother to pursue. Who knows, she wonders, when will she be able to talk to her daughter about the choice she made? Now, Kudzoyeva is as worried about her daughter as her granddaughter.

"Things like that don't pass without any consequences on your health, or your mind," she said.

Dzandarova knows that. She is changed forever. But she's focusing on her children. "I hope my kids will get over this horrible experience, over this horrible psychological trauma, sooner or later."

"Thank God we are all alive, and Alana is with us now."

Alexei Kuznetsov of The Times Moscow Bureau contributed to this report.

Iran will extract its own uranium

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

SAGHAND, Iran — Iran will begin extracting uranium from deep under its central desert in less than two years, an official told The Associated Press Saturday during an unprecedented tour of the country's uranium mine.

Iran maintains its nuclear ambitions are purely peaceful, despite U.S. charges it seeks nuclear weapons, and is pressing ahead with plans to control the whole nuclear fuel cycle from mining uranium ore to enriching uranium to be used in reactors.

Saturday's tour of the Saghand mine, some 300 miles south of Tehran, was the first time Iran has allowed an international news agency to visit a site related to its highly ambitious nuclear fuel cycle program. Iran wants to prove it has nothing hide, but serious questions have been raised about its nuclear program.

Iran's critics argue that a country that controls the fuel cycle will inevitably be able to produce a nuclear bomb if or when it decides to do so. The AP learned earlier this week that Iran had told the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency it was planning to process more than 10,000 tons of uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas — enough for four or five warheads, according to experts. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said in response that Washington would urge the IAEA at its board meeting this month to refer Iran to

the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

The European Union was also concerned by the report of Iran's processing plants, saying it could not accept the development of weapons-grade uranium by Iran. The Iranians say they do not have the technology to make weapons-grade uranium, but experts say they could.

President Mohammad Khatami first announced in February 2003 that his country would mine uranium at Saghand, saying then that Iran was "determined to make use of advanced nuclear technology for peaceful purposes." Few details of the activities at Saghand have emerged since then.

"We will be able to extract uranium ore in the first half of 2006 from Saghand mine. More than 77 percent of the work has been accomplished," Ghassem Soleimani, the British-trained director of mining operations at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said at the mine on Saturday.

He said the mine will feed Iran's uranium enrichment plant at Natanz, in central Iran. Iran also has a facility in Isfahan, another city in central Iran, that converts uranium powder, called yellowcake, into hexafluoride gas and is building uranium centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium.

Soleimani said a few tons have already been extracted from the open pit for testing at a yellowcake production plant currently under construction in Ardakan, another city in central Iran.

Arabs decry 'our terrorist sons'

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Muslims worldwide are the main perpetrators of terrorism, a humiliating and painful truth that must be acknowledged, a prominent Arab writer and television executive wrote Saturday, as Middle East media and officials expressed horror at the bloody rebel siege of a Russian school.

Unusually forthright self-criticism followed the end of the hostage crisis, along with warnings that such actions inflict more damage on the image of Islam than all its enemies could hope. Arab leaders and Muslim clerics denounced the school seizure as unjustifiable and expressed their sympathy.

Images of terrified young survivors being carried from the scene aired repeatedly on Arab TV stations. Pictures of dead and wounded children ran on front pages of Arab newspapers Saturday.

"Holy warriors" from the Middle East long have

supported fellow Muslims fighting in Chechnya, and Russian officials said nine or 10 Arabs were among militants killed.

"Our terrorists are an end-product of our corrupted culture," Abdulrahman al-Rashed, general manager of Al-Arabiya television writing in his daily column published in the pan-Arab Ashraq Al-Awsat newspaper.

Al-Rashed ran through a list of recent attacks by Islamic extremist groups many of which are influenced by the ideology of Osama Bin Laden.

"Most perpetrators of suicide operations in buses, schools and residential buildings around the world for the past 10 years have been Muslims," he wrote.

Contributors to Islamic Web sites known for their extremist content had mixed reactions on the hostage crisis, with some praising the separatists. Others wrote that people should wait until the militants had been identified before implicating Arabs in the drama.



I would like to take a moment and tell all the troops in Iraq to keep up the good work and don't pay any mine to the news it is a election year and they will do any thing to put a twist on what you have done in order to make the candidate that they don't support look bad. I was over there earlier this year and I know the job you all are doing and the challenges you all face. My entire family supports you and your mission we come from along line of military service. I wish I could be back over there and working along side you all. Thank You & God Bless You All G. C.Borah Jr, Wyoming Air National Guard



Our God is faithful to finish what he has started. You our troops in Iraq will prevail in any adversity. Neither sand nor

treachery of the Saddam Regime will be able to stop you. God is with you and he will not forsake you. Our prayers are with you and we know you will return home safe. Rev. Victor Kuzia,



This is a message to my son in the marines Phelps Brandon S. Son we all miss you very much and i wish i was there to pray with you and help you but i know the lord hears my prayers for you and all the troops over there. Son i know that you know you are in my thoughts everysecond of everyday. We miss you and we wish we had had the chance too say our goodbyes before you left but we were not able to but we are really really waiting to get our hugs and kisses when you return in the meantime we love you son and we are very proud of you and all the other over there

fighting for us. We can not express how much we love you. Thanks for the letter telling us know you are ok it was a big relief. Love you always Dad, Connie, Amber, Eric, and Summer. Ps. Courtney and mike and kids send there love and prayers also. We love you son hurry home Connie



I just want to encourage you and let you know that me and the kids are fine your moms been asking about you. I just sent you a care package with personal things I send you a letter just about every other day. We miss you and look forward to hearing from you soon. Know that the Lord has you covered because the prayers of the righteous to avail much. God bless you. Love Your Wife, Ravin

Gypsies focus of Bulgaria crime controversy

BY NEVYANA HADJIVSKA

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — The seven forest rangers were patrolling their region south of Sofia when they came across a group of Gypsies they suspected of illegal logging. A verbal exchange quickly turned violent — and then, police say, the Gypsies went after the rangers with metal clubs.

The confrontation, in which five rangers were hurt, has touched off a new controversy over ancient prejudices: the deep-rooted perception throughout the Balkans that Gypsies are liars, cheats and criminals — and the counterclaim that any criminal behavior by the group is the product of racial oppression.

The question has festered for centuries in this part of the world, where Gypsy beggars — distinct

in appearance and culture from much of the population — are a frequent sight on the streets of Bucharest, Budapest and Prague.

Seizing on the forest ranger incident, a prominent politician charged that so-called Gypsy criminality had reached "epidemic" levels and argued that vigilante squads should be created to protect ethnic Bulgarians.

Konstantin Trenchev, a leader of the Bulgarian democratic movement after the collapse of communism in 1989, touched a nerve at a time when the government is scrambling to find ways to integrate the long-marginalized minority as part of its drive to join the European Union by 2007.

His comments, faxed to media and repeated at a news conference, drew immediate reaction

from the Gypsy community and human rights activists. They branded him a racist and said centuries of discrimination had left the Roma, as the Gypsies call themselves, a legacy of crushing poverty.

Petty crime committed by Gypsies is not a criminal but a social issue, said Krasimir Kanev, head of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, a human rights group. "Real crime means harmful intent and there is no such intent when you steal something to eat," he said.

Bulgaria's official crime statistics are not broken down by ethnicity and Trenchev was unable to provide any data to support his allegations. But like him, many people in this Balkan country of 8 million people identify the Gypsies — who make up 4.5 percent of the population — with crime and violence.



A Gypsy family lives in open air in the Black Sea port of Varna, Bulgaria, in this 2002 photo. A group of Gypsies recently attacked forest rangers in Bulgaria, prompting a renewal of ancient prejudices.

Bruce Lee monument to be symbol of unity for divided Bosnians

BY SAMIR KRILIC

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In Bosnia, where one man's hero often is another man's villain, some citizens have decided to honor a man Serbs, Croats and Muslims can all look up to — kung fu great Bruce Lee.

Lee is best remembered for single-handedly taking on dozens of bad guys in a series of kung fu flicks. But the statue of the Chinese action hero in the ethnically divided city of Mostar is intended to remind people of Lee's lesser known values — "loyalty, friendship, skill and justice," said Veselin Gatalo, a writer who helped come up with the idea.

Lee played in a series of Hong Kong films in the early 1970s that propelled him to stardom first in Asia, then Europe and eventually the United States.

His Hollywood debut came in 1973 with the hugely popular "Enter the Dragon," a box office success Lee never lived to witness. He died a month before the film hit U.S. theaters of a swelling of the brain. He was only 32 years old at the time.

But can a monument to a kara-

te-chopping, high-kicking B-movie star unite Mostar, a town that was both physically and psychologically scarred in Bosnia's 1992-95 war? Even now, Roman Catholic Croats and Muslims still live apart, sending their children to different schools and cheering for rival soccer teams.



Lee

"Lee is a true international hero and is a hero to all ethnicities in Bosnia and that's why we picked him," Gatalo said.

Bosnia's war killed hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Croats and Muslims and left the country divided into a Serb republic and a Muslim-Croat federation. In Mostar at least, Gatalo, an ethnic Croat, hopes a statue to Lee will help erase the city's tarnished image as a place of bitter ethnic rivalries. "We want that people, when you say Mostar, respond. That's the city that has a monument to Bruce Lee," Gatalo said.

Herman dashes 3 miles in three months

LONDON — Herman the tortoise is more than 30 years old, but she can still cut a dash.


The female tortoise has just returned home after rushing three miles across country in a little over three months, her owners said Wednesday.

"It is great to have her back," said owner Ken Swanson, 62, a retired fisherman from West Lilburn, near Atlanta in northeast England.

"Herman escaped from a hole in the garden fence when we were away on holiday at the end of May. We hunted high and low looking for her but we never found her and we even reported her missing to the police."

Herman's journey ended when a mailman found her on Ameside Moor, near Wooler, last week.

From The Associated Press



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IN THE STATES

Edge of storm whipping Fla.

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Hurricane Frances stalled off the east coast of Florida on Saturday but its outer bands whipped the shore with 90 mph wind that downed trees, knocked power out to hundreds of thousands of people and ripped parts of roofs off buildings.

Tens of thousands of people fled the area as Frances carried a threat of more than a foot of rain, tornadoes and heavy flooding. Forecasters expected the storm, a Category 2 storm with 105 mph top sustained wind, to come ashore late Saturday or early Sunday somewhere along the middle of the state's Atlantic coast.

That arrival would be about a day later than initial predictions, and residents took advantage of the delay to buy canned goods and water, nail plywood sheets over windows and find shelter.

"I turned on the TV and when I saw the storm was still 130 miles away, I said, 'Now's the time to get out,'" Dana Goegelman said after leaving the barrier island community of Indianland early Saturday. "I was so happy to get on the other side of that bridge I could have kissed the ground."

The few drivers out on roads Saturday dodged palm fronds and tree branches. Wind gusts in Jupiter surpassed hurricane force at 91 mph, tossing boats around like toys in the water and making it a struggle for people to stand up.



Hurricane Frances batters boats in the marina at Palm Beach Shores, Fla., on Saturday.

Trees crashed into the street in Stuart.

The roof and a door were blown off a hangar at Palm Beach International Airport. The crew of a yacht struggled to control the vessel in pitching waves at West Palm Beach as its pilot tried to maneuver the craft to a mooring, and a sailboat drifted out of control toward a nearby bridge.

In Brevard County, two men were charged with looting for allegedly trying to break into a church. About 2.8 million residents were told to clear out — the biggest evacuation request in Florida history — but it was unknown how many did. Major amusement parks, the Kennedy Space Center and airports serving Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Melbourne had all closed.

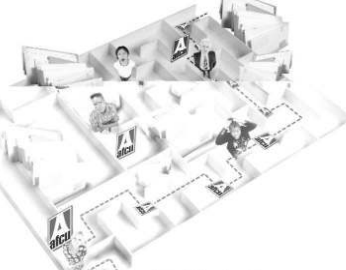
At 2 p.m., Frances was cen-

tered about 70 miles east of Palm Beach and had stalled. It was expected to resume drifting to the west-northwest at 5 mph later in the day, the National Hurricane Center said.

"This is going to be a tough ride for us," Gov. Jeb Bush said.

State meteorologist Ben Nelson said Frances might remain over Florida for two cycles of high tide, meaning two rounds of storm surges expected to be 4 to 6 feet north of where the eye hits.

NO WAY OUT?



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Victims of Hurricane Charley brace for another hard blow

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Their house is in a flood-prone area and Hurricane Charley tore off more than half the roof's shingles, but Bob West and family planned to stay put and ride out Frances.

Just three weeks after Charley slammed into west Florida, preparations for Frances were complicated by damage to homes such as West's, clogged stormwater drains, rain-swollen waterways and mangled emergency shelters.

The storm was expected to give the region only a glancing, but very wet, blow. Even that, however, may be too much for homes damaged by Charley in Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee counties.

"The temporary roofing may not withstand 12 hours of Frances' winds," said DeSoto emergency operations spokeswoman Mandy Hines.

Officials also worried that Frances could pick up debris left by Charley and cause more damage or injuries.

West, a 56-year-old computer programmer, said he was confident that wood strips and extra nails and clamps would secure the blue plastic sheeting on his roof. He and his wife and their two sons were busy Friday staking down tarps over debris piles and elevating furniture inside the house in case of flooding.

"We also just have the attitude of 'We're sticking,'" he said.

Officials urged Charley victims living in damaged homes, low-lying areas and mobile homes to evacuate although they may have to go to neighboring counties to find shelters or bring their own food, bedding and other supplies.

— The Associated Press

Security breach, burst battery close LAX terminals

LOS ANGELES — Four terminals at Los Angeles International Airport were shut down early Saturday after a passenger bypassed security at one terminal and a flashlight battery exploded during screening at another, authorities said.

The two incidents a half-hour apart on the busy Labor Day weekend appeared to be unrelated, said FBI spokeswoman Cathy Viray.

The scare at the international terminal apparently came when a flashlight battery exploded as it was being screened by a Transportation Security Administration worker, Viray said.

The TSA worker suffered minor injuries to his hands, Viray said.

Airport spokesman Tom Winfrey said the small explosion "slightly injured several people." The passenger whose bag was screened at the time was being questioned.

About half an hour earlier, a passenger bypassed security at United Airlines' Terminal 8, prompting the evacuation of terminals 6, 7 and 8, Winfrey said. Authorities cleared the terminals, which are connected, in order to re-screen passengers, he said.

From The Associated Press

'Weird Al' bugged during concert

DU QUAIN, Illinois — Things got hairy for parody singer "Weird Al" Yankovic as a flock of unwanted fans rushed onstage during his performance at a state fair in southern Illinois.

Green moths swarmed Yankovic, some nesting in his curly locks.

"My hand asked me if I could find a concert

where we would be attacked by insects," Yankovic told his audience Wednesday at the Du Quain State Fair. "I said I would see what I could do."

Yankovic didn't seem bugged by the uninvited guests, though, as he plugged along with songs and costume changes during his self-described "rock and comedy multimedia extravaganza" to support his recent album, "Poodle Hat."

From wire reports

Messages of Support

★ Hello to all of you!!!! I just want to take a few minutes to tell you how thankful I am you are protecting our country!!!! I am a mother of 2 children and thank the Lord above that they are with me every day!!!! I am sure that each and every one of your parents would say the same about you!!!!

My Children are not old enough to protect our country yet but maybe someday they will take that path. I have a full time job and work for the State of Iowa!!!! I have a part time job and work in Food Services. Part of the job at my second job is to cater to the Army and the Navy of Des Moines, Iowa.... My thoughts and prayers go out to them.... I want all of you to know that I am proud of you and pray for you everyday!!!! K. Breese

★ J. Sutfin- We miss you and love you and can't wait until you are home safe. We are all so proud of you! Love, Gary, Arlene, Sara, Melissa, Taylor and Justin

★ GO GET UM.....YOUR DOING A GREAT JOB. WE PRAY FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN. GO U.S.A.

★ jerome we are so proud of you take care we love you. You will be home soon you are in my prayers so keep me in yours love mom and dad oh by the way HI

★ Linda and Dennis Woodhaven, Mi.

★ Dear Service Member, I want you to know that, as a mother, I realize how many personal freedoms you are giving up for the rest of us - and how valuable you are to the continued freedom of all Americans. I feel like you are all my own sons and daughters. Barbara Huffman

★ T. Whitfield. Hey buddy, Eric and I are thinking of you and praying you are OK. We are so proud of you and what you are doing over there. Shock and awe baby. Come home soon and safe! Trusting you to HIS care, Eric and Tammi



Find Your Way Home

Relocation Guide
Saturdays

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

A little advice to jazz up Jeopardy! genius Jennings

BY BOBBY BRYANT
Knight Rider Newspapers

Ken Jennings. Kenneth? Kenny? Ken-Jen? Info-Master K? The Mighty K Man? All right, we'll just call you Ken.

But you need to consider changing that.

It's fine for a software engineer in Salt Lake City, but you're in the Big Time, baby. You're the man now, dawg. (In Big Time lingo, Ken, that simply means, "You are worthy of praise, my friend." But of course you know that.)

Ken, you'll return to the syndicated game show "Jeopardy!" on Sept. 6 to try to continue the record-breaking winning streak that you started June 2.

By the time this show ended its season in July, you had won 38 straight games and bagged \$1.3 million. Host Alex Trebek was in awe of you. Alex Trebek is a man not easily awed. He's Canadian, just like the X-Men's Wolverine.

Now, your task is to keep doing what you did most of the summer — to keep being the Godzilla of "Jeopardy," the "nerd stud" from Utah — to keep the streak going for many more weeks.

It will be difficult, but not impossible.

It's not as if you're competing on "The Weakest Link," with leather-trenchcoated Anne Robinson ripping raw holes in your self-esteem, or on "Fear Factor," with Joe Rogan making you eat caterpillars while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance backwards.

You can do this. We can help. Here are some ideas you might consider:

1. Study tapes of those "Saturday Night Live" spoofs of "Jeopardy!" in which Will Ferrell played Trebek and Darrell Hammond played celebrity contestant Sean Connery. Observe how Connery keeps Trebek off balance with subtle psychological maneuvers: Trebek: Let's just go to "Animal Sounds" for \$600. This is the sound a doggy makes.

(Connery buzzes in.) Mr. Connery.

Connery: Moo.

Trebek: No.

Connery: Well, that's the sound your mother made last night!

Trebek: OK, that's not necessary.

Ken, this entire skit is included on "Saturday Night Live: The Best of Will Ferrell," available for \$15 on videotape. Buy a copy. You can afford it.

2. Dig up some dirt on Trebek. He can't be as squeaky clean as he seems.

For example, if you do an Internet search on Trebek's name, you'll run across a Web site documenting how funky his hair used to look. How embarrassing! And



Ken Jennings

if you run "Trebek" through a standard computer spell-checker, it suggests changing the name to "Tree-like." Tree-like! Imagine what he'd do to keep that piece of information quiet!

3. Implant a microchip in your brain, a la the new "Manchurian Candidate." Using the microchip, instantly download the entire contents of the Library of Congress every time you are asked a question. (No, wait, you're doing that already. Never mind.)

4. Hook up with video vixens Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie of "The Simple Life," become tabloid fodder: (KEN JENNINGS' LIP-POSUCTION VIAGRA BOTOX NIGHTMARE) It would unnerve your fellow contestants and gain you precious seconds to hit the buzzer.

5. Steal sultry Demi Moore away from can't-shave-yet Ashton Kutcher. Again, it would shake up your fellow contestants. And you know in your heart of hearts, Ken, that Ashton Kutcher is just vying for her.

6. Make a large campaign donation to President Bush. Convince him that your winning streak is vital to homeland security and consumer confidence. Persuade him to use the CIA to ferret out all the "Jeopardy!" questions for the rest of the year.

7. Swatch watches are made in Switzerland. The dwarf willow is the world's smallest tree. Knights in medieval Europe had to serve first as pages, then as squires. Alberich and Mime are dwarves in Wagner's opera "Das Rheingold." (These are actual "Jeopardy!" questions you can memorize for future reference.)

8. Tell Trebek that if you lose, you will go on "American Idol" and sing "She Bangs" until you have a record deal, just like William Hung.

9. Tell Trebek that if you lose, your life is forfeit, because Utah does not permit failure!

10. Two words: Nose rings.

Medicare premiums get record rise for '05

Kerry: Latest hike shows president's shortcomings

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — John Kerry, driving through central Ohio in his first swing of the fall campaign, focused strong disapproval of President Bush's record in job creation and health-care costs.

Kerry is campaigning hard in Ohio, keeping in mind that no Republican has ever won the presidency without winning the state in the heart of the Midwest. Republican Bush also is taking his campaign back to woo the state's voters during the first week of the final push toward the November election.

Kerry seized on news that Medicare premiums for doctor

visits will rise 17 percent next year under a formula set by law, the largest in the program's 40-year history, to say Bush hasn't done enough to control the cost of health care.

"No matter how hard this administration tries to sweep this under the rug, America's seniors will notice because they are paying the price for George Bush's failed leadership," Kerry said in a statement.

Mark McClellan, administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the increase reflects not only the rising cost of health care, but also the program's better services that include increased access to physicians and new preventative benefits.

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare premiums for doctor visits are going up a record \$11.60 a month next year. The Bush administration says the increase reflects a strengthened Medicare, while Democrats complain that seniors are being unfairly socked.

Monthly payments for Part B of the government health-care program for older and disabled Americans — doctor visits and most other non-hospital expenses — will jump to \$78.20 from \$66.60, a 17 percent increase, the administration said Friday.

The administration, seeking political advantage among older voters, has tried to depict the Medicare law, with its first-ever prescription drug benefit, as a boon to seniors.

"The new premiums reflect an enhanced Medicare that is providing seniors and people with disabilities with strengthened access to physician services and new pre-

ventive benefits," said Dr. Mark McClellan, administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The increase reflects rapidly rising health costs and last year's Medicare overhaul, McClellan said. For example, the law blocked a planned 4.5 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians and replaced it with a 1.5 percent increase.

But Democrats and other critics have derided the law as a giveaway to insurers, drug makers and medical providers.

"George Bush is presiding over a Medicare system that is socking seniors with the largest premium hike in the program's 40-year history," said Phil Singer, spokesman for Democrat John Kerry's presidential campaign.

The timing of the release — the day following the Republican convention, just before the Labor Day weekend and with a hurricane bearing down on Florida and its nearly 3 million Medicare recipients — also drew criticism Friday.

"This is a cynical attempt to bury bad news by leaking it out when you hope no one is watching," said Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark, D-Calif. "This administration has had four years to improve Medicare and instead have made it worse. Today's news reflects the reality, not rhetoric, of this administration's bad record on Medicare."

McClellan denied any effort to coordinate the release with events. "We're getting these numbers out as soon as we can," he said.

The premiums are updated annually under a formula set by law.

The federal government picks up about 75 percent of the cost of Part B benefits and beneficiaries pay the rest.

Premiums have been increasing at an accelerating pace in recent years, rising 10 percent in 2004 and 8.7 percent last year.

In addition, the deductible for Part B services will rise \$10 next year, to \$110, another change mandated by the Medicare law.

Bush, Kerry differ on U.S. job market

Candidates use August numbers to their advantage in campaign

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Good news, or bad? President Bush and Democrat John Kerry have differing takes about the vitality of the nation's job market — a question that's heating up this year's race for the White House.

Bush, who is campaigning Saturday in Ohio — a pivotal state that has lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs — says a new U.S. employment report offers positive news to voters worried about jobs.

Kerry, also in Ohio on the weekend before Labor Day, says job growth is nowhere near robust.

"The economy is strong and getting stronger," Bush said Friday in Iowa before flying to Ohio, where he was attending two rallies before moving on to Pennsylvania and back to the White House.

The president said 144,000 new jobs the Labor Department reports were created in August and nearly 60,000 more jobs in June and July than previously estimated are evidence of a rebounding economy.

Overall, he said the U.S. economy has 1.7 million more jobs than it did in August 2003. However, even with the job gains over the past year, there are still 913,000 fewer workers on payrolls than when Bush took office.

The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent in August, nearly 1 percentage point below the peak last summer, and lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, Bush noted.

Campaigning in Ohio on Friday, Kerry said the latest Labor Department report showing 144,000 new jobs created in August — slightly fewer than what had been projected by economists — was evidence of Bush's "record of failure" to create jobs.

In Newark, Ohio, Kerry heard from four people who said they recently lost their jobs and were worried about finding new ones and getting health care when they need it.



President Bush is introduced at an "Ask President Bush" campaign event at the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School gymnasium Saturday in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

"The president wants you to re-elect him. For what?" Kerry asked them. "Losing jobs?"

He said the newest numbers show the nation hasn't created nearly enough jobs to get the economy moving again.

Sen. John Edwards, Kerry's running mate, also hit on the loss of jobs at the start of a two-day bus tour through Wisconsin on Friday.

"The truth is, not enough jobs are being created to even take care of the people going into the workforce, much less the hundreds of thousands of people who have lost their jobs over the last several years," Edwards said in Green Bay.

Clinton optimistic about coming bypass surgery

BY FRANK ELTMAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bill Clinton said he was "a little scared, but not much" of undergoing heart bypass surgery, but was looking forward to a swift recovery and resuming normal activities such as jogging.

The former president was hospitalized with chest pains and shortness of breath. The upcoming operation could limit his role in campaigning for fellow Democrat John Kerry, who is making a run for the White House.

"Let me just say this, Republicans aren't the only people who want four more years here," Clinton said in a live interview Friday evening on CNN's "Larry King Live."

An angiogram showed that Clinton, who turned 58 two weeks ago, had significant blockage in his heart arteries but did not suffer a heart attack, a doctor who performed the test told The Associated Press.

Clinton blamed the blockage in part on genetics but also said he "may have done some damage in those years when I was too careless about what I ate."

"I guess I'm a little scared, but

not much," he said. "I'm looking forward to it. I want to get what it's like to run five miles again."

His wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said the former president would have surgery early next week and no further information about his condition would be released until the operation is finished.

"I wanted to report to you that my husband is doing very well," she said outside New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia, where the former president is being treated. "He's in great humor. He's beating all of us at cards and the rest of the games we're playing."

In bypass surgery, a new piece of blood vessel, usually taken from the patient's leg,



President Clinton

sewn into place to create a detour around a blockage. Patients typically spend three to five days in the hospital and are encouraged to be fairly active right away.

Clinton had agreed to campaign for Kerry in the two months before the Nov. 2 general election and had already appeared at some Democratic Party events.

Both President Bush and Kerry, the junior senator from Massachusetts, sent best wishes to Clinton.

Funny money

PA GREENSBURG — A store clerk at a woman's clothing store was fooled by a fake \$200 bill, despite several dead giveaways on the currency including President Bush's picture and the serial number DUB9A4U2001.

Police charged Deborah Trautwine, 51, with theft by deception for allegedly passing the bogus bill at the Fashion Bug store on Aug. 22.

There is no such denomination, with or without Bush's picture.

In addition to Bush's picture, the bill didn't bear the signature of the secretary of the treasury. Instead, it was "signed" by Ronald Reagan, whose title was "Political Mentor" and by Bush's father, who is listed as "Campaign Advisor and Mentor."

The back of the bill was even goofier.

It depicted the White House with several signs erected on the lawn, including those reading "We Like Briscoe!" and "USA Deserves A Tax Cut."

Out of control truck

TN MEMPHIS — An 18-wheel truck crashed into a hamburger stand, killing a woman and injuring at least four other people, authorities said.

The crash occurred after the driver parked the truck in a lot on a hill above the Rally's Hamburgers restaurant and walked down to place an order. Somehow, the truck began rolling.

The woman was dead at the scene, trapped between the truck and a car in the drive-through line.

A pregnant 14-year-old girl and two men were injured and sent to hospitals. Their conditions were not immediately available.

Eviction overreaction

UT TOOELE — A man has been accused of stabbing a dog to death with a sword in retaliation against its owner, a hotel owner who had evicted him.

Daniel Painter, 30, was charged with aggravated assault and cruelty to animals.

Police said Painter attacked a chow-Labrador mix named Kabu with a sword.

Kabu's owner, Garth Jones, he was awakened to the sound of a thud and a yelp.

Jones said the man then threatened him and chased after him, but Jones was able to run into his office and call police.

Painter was evicted after allegedly failed to pay his rent last month and attempted to negotiate a cheaper rate after complaining latex paint had hurt his health.

Off to a rough start

NY SYRACUSE — New Syracuse Chancellor Nancy Cantor had her car stolen out of the driveway of her campus residence, police said.

Cantor, who moved to Syracuse and took over as the university's first woman chancellor on Aug. 1, reported her 2004 Volvo station wagon was stolen.

There was no evidence, such as broken glass, that someone had broken into the car, police spokesman Sgt. Tom Connellan said.



..AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The car would normally have been in a locked carriage house, but that building is under renovation, SU spokesman Kevin Morrow said.

Voter ID battle

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A court battle over voter identification requirements could affect tens of thousands of voters in New Mexico, a hotly contested state in the presidential election.

The case stems from interpretation of a voter identification law enacted in July 2003. Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron has said that only new voters who registered by mail are required to show identification before voting.

But a lawsuit filed Aug. 20 by several plaintiffs, including Republican state Rep. Larry Larranaga, seeks a more strict interpretation. They want the requirement to apply to all new voters, except those who applied with a county clerk.

The lawsuit mostly affects first-time voters who did not register in county clerk's offices, many of whom were signed up in drives by groups around the state.

Tragedy on the tracks

KY DRY RIDGE — A couple were killed and their two young children injured when a



Strong winds

Rebecca Pegram is pelted with rain while the wind turns her umbrella inside out in downtown Raleigh, N.C.

train struck their car, police said.

The family's Dodge Neon had entered a private rail crossing when it was struck by the Norfolk Southern train, Kentucky State Police said.

There was no signal at the crossing in northern Kentucky's Grant County, said Robin Chapman of Norfolk Southern. State police Trooper Kevin Flick said the train whistle sounded before the crash.

Both children were fastened in child safety seats at the time of the crash, police said.

Fighting acid rain

NH THORNTON — After watching sugar maples decline for nearly two decades, researchers say they're making progress with a bold attempt to erase damage caused by acid rain.

Five years ago, scientists at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest dumped pellets of calcium across a 29-acre watershed in the White Mountains to replenish soils depleted of the nutrient by acid rain. Nearly five times as many seedlings sprouted on the treated watershed than on an untreated tract last year, and 42 percent of them survived to see this summer.

The experiment and several other studies have reignited a debate over whether scientists can or should counteract some of the damaging effects of acid rain.

The Hubbard Brook researchers say their findings, from the first five years of a 50-year research project, are preliminary. But already, some are taking tentative steps toward reversing the forests' fortunes.

The wrong man

GA DECATUR — A man who spent 17 years in prison for the 1986 rape, kidnapping and robbery of a hospital worker was freed after DNA evidence cleared him.

Clarence Harrison, 44, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 on charges of sexually assaulting the woman as she waited for a bus.

A new DNA test of the rape kit used as evidence in the case showed Harrison did not commit the rape.

"All we know for sure is the culprit is not Mr. Harrison," said John Petrey, chief assistant district attorney.

The Georgia Innocence Project, founded two years ago, has received letters from more than 1,400 inmates seeking to have their convictions overturned. The project has six open cases and is investigating more than 250 others.

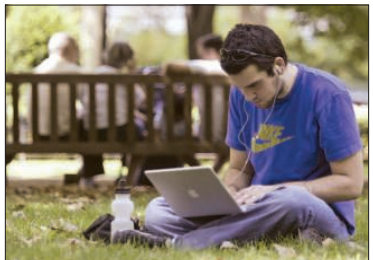
Nuke pill coming

PA HARRISBURG — Nuclear watchdog group Three Mile Island Alert will distribute free potassium iodide pills that can protect the thyroid gland from radiation in the event of a nuclear accident.

The pills, known as KI, are a salt compound that contains iodine. They protect the thyroid gland against cancer from radioactive iodine, which can be released during an accident. The thyroid gland is the only part of the body that is protected by KI.



Up, up and away A Lockheed Martin Corp.'s Atlas 2AS unmanned rocket, carrying a spy satellite, lights up the skies over Cape Canaveral, Fla., as it blasts off.



Surfing the web Vince Veneziani uses a wireless connection to access the Internet in Philadelphia. For about \$10 million, Philadelphia city officials believe they can turn all 135 square miles of Philadelphia into an Internet "hot spot," where anyone with a properly equipped computer could access the Web, either for free or at prices far lower than available through commercial connections.

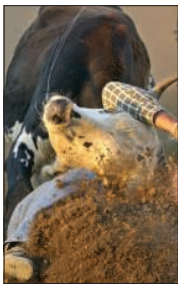


Easy strolling Marc Bendig pulls his cooler, fishing rods and 19-month-old son, Meighler, down to the water at Lake Richard B. Russell State Park, north of Elberton, Ga.



Sit. Good dog!

Katelyn Kocher, 5, coaxes Molly, a five-year old Shih Tzu, to do some tricks at Buster Brown Shoes national search contest in Clayton, Mo. The winning dog and child will grace the side of Buster Brown shoe boxes.



Tasting dirt

Jace Honey of La Junta, Colo., gets a face full of dirt as he works to control a steer during the steer wrestling competition of the PRCA rodeo at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colo.

No cat naps

Mary Perloff-Nelson, of Beverly Hills, Mich., tries to keep Roxann, a hairless sphynx, from taking a nap right before being judged during Mo-Kan Cat Club's All Breed Championship at KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Mo.



Beautiful day

A surfer walks into the Pacific Ocean on a warm, sunny afternoon at Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

There's the beef

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Thanks to Oklahoma's football riot of Texas in October, Gov. Brad Henry made a donation Thursday of 700 pounds of ground beef, enough to make 2,800 quarter-pound hamburgers.

The donation was possible because Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Cattle Raisers Association came through with a side of beef, about 350 pounds, and it was matched by Homeland Stores.

Perry had bet the beef on the outcome of the game, which Oklahoma won, 65-13.

Fatal malfunction

OK MONROE TOWNSHIP — A parachutist died Thursday afternoon when his parachute failed to open properly and he fell into the front yard of a private residence, authorities said.

The victim, whose name was not released pending notification of family members, was an experienced jumper who had been parachuting for about 10 years, police said.

The plane used in Thursday's jump was operated by the Prefall Adventures Skydiving School of Williamstown.

David Pancake, an instructor at the school, told the Gloucester County Times parachute must be deployed at about 2,000 feet to give sufficient time to operate correctly, and that the victim may have lost track of his altitude.

Last month, a 50-year-old woman was injured when she jumped from a Prefall Adventures plane and crashed into tree branches after her parachute collapsed.

Free to good home

MI ROYAL OAK — A group that regulates the care of zoo animals has blocked the Detroit Zoo's plan to send two aging, arthritic elephants to a sanctuary, saying they must go to another zoo if anywhere.

A committee of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association said that if Winky and Wanda are to move, it should be to the Columbus Zoo.

Detroit Zoo Director Ron Kagan said in May that Detroit would be the nation's first major zoo to voluntarily give up its elephants solely on ethical grounds.

Even though Detroit's one-acre enclosure vastly exceeds American Zoo and Aquarium Association standards, Kagan said zoos generally are incapable of providing for the social, physical and emotional needs of the animals. That is particularly true of zoos in northern areas, he told the Detroit Free Press.

Habitat for stupidity

GA ALBANY — A Habitat for Humanity homeowner with family and bill problems allegedly sold her furniture and then torched her home using a candle, simulating an accidental fire, officials said.

But after investigators talked with neighbors and tracked down the buyers of the furniture, they obtained a warrant charging Jennifer Kelly, 35, with first-degree arson in the July 23 blaze.

As of Wednesday, sheriff's deputies still had not been able to find and arrest Kelly, officials said. She could face a maximum sentence of 20 years and a \$50,000 fine, if convicted.

Albany Deputy Fire Chief James Carswell said Kelly had gotten behind on mortgage payments and told several people that she would burn the home before she would allow Habitat to take it back.

Fast-food escape

MT HELENA — Two convicted murderers escaped from a prison transport van while it was parked at a fast-food restaurant, but they didn't get very far.

Five hours after breaking the windows of the van to escape while one of the guards went into Burger King on Thursday, Russell Rex VanKirk was arrested just blocks away, said Helena Police Chief Troy McGee. William Leonard Brown was captured early Friday sneaking through yards nearby, he said.

VanKirk was taken to the hospital to be treated for cuts. "He's being well guarded," McGee said. They were among four men who escaped from the van at 6 p.m. The other two escapees were immediately captured.

Judge guilty in drug case

NM BERNALILLO — A well-known former judge pleaded guilty on Thursday to cocaine possession and aggravated driving while intoxicated. He was sentenced to a year of unsupervised probation.

"I feel embarrassed and humiliated as a result of my actions," retired Judge John Brennan told former state District Judge George Perez, who accepted the plea.

Perez granted a conditional discharge to the cocaine possession charge, which means it will be removed from Brennan's record if he successfully completes probation. The DWI charge will remain on Brennan's record.

Mystery solved?

CA SEATTLE — A man already serving two life sentences for murder has been charged with committing what prosecutors say is Washington state's oldest unsolved crime, the 1968 fatal stabbing of a pregnant teenager.

John Dwight Canaday, 59, admitted recent during questioning by Seattle police detectives that he killed Sandra Bowman, according to charging papers filed Thursday.

Canaday sighed, held up his hands and declared, "Yes, I killed her," when told he had left DNA at the scene, the documents said.

A prisoner at the Walla Walla penitentiary, Canaday faces another possible life sentence for the Bowman slaying. He is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday.

Honeymoon disaster

VT WATERBURY — A woman from Seattle who was celebrating her honeymoon with a hike on Hunger Mountain ended up on a stretcher with a special rescue team.

The Waterbury Backcountry Rescue Team was dispatched to the mountain late Tuesday after receiving an emergency 911 call.

The patient, a 38-year-old woman whose name was not released, was found a mile up the trail, according to rescue team leader Brian Lindner. She fell and possibly broke her leg during her descent from the summit with her husband of three days.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other state/side syndicates.

McCain looks great for '08
The Oregonian, Portland, Ore.

President Bush couldn't have a more important supporter, at a more important time, than Arizona Sen. John McCain. On [Monday] night, the man who is arguably the most popular political figure in the country launched the Republican National Convention with a strong endorsement of the president. The speech would have been impossible to imagine four years ago, when McCain was so angry after losing to Bush in a bitter primary that he left the GOP convention in Philadelphia two days early, grudgingly returning only for the final night.

McCain isn't running for anything, at least not this year, but he's still a central figure in the 2004 campaign. He's a good friend of Democrat John Kerry, both men are decorated Vietnam veterans, and Kerry even tried to cox McCain into becoming his running mate. McCain's been a frequent thorn in the side of the Bush administration, criticizing Bush on taxes, climate change and limits on stem-cell research. He has described Bush's proposal to amend the constitution to ban same-sex marriage as "antithetical in every way to the core philosophy of Republicans."

And yet, McCain stood up in prime time, on the opening night of the Republican convention, saluted Bush for his courage in fighting terrorism and strongly endorsed his bid for re-election.

Meanwhile, McCain gets to demonstrate to the GOP faithful that he stands with them. McCain is 67, he's fought skin cancer, and he says he doesn't plan to run for president in 2008. But if he does decide to run, he won't run without the support of the party establishment. ... The candidate who toured the nation in his "Straight Talk Express" bus in 2004 made at least one thing clear [Monday] night: He's a good Republican.

Even allies spy on one another
Dallas Morning News

Is there an Israeli spy in the Pentagon? It wouldn't be surprising. Whether Middle East analyst Lawrence Franklin, now at the center of an FBI probe, is an Israeli agent is another question that must not be dodged or handled with quiet diplomacy.

First, some caveats. It wouldn't be unprecedented to learn that our ally Israel has been spying on the Pentagon. In the 1980s, U.S. naval intelligence officer Jonathan Pollard sold out his country by providing reams of top-secret information to Israel. More commonly, American allies such as France, Taiwan and Japan are suspected of running economic espionage operations against the United States constantly and we do it to our allies, too.

Franklin's case is not so remotely as serious as the Pollard case. Mr. Franklin (who is not Jewish, by the way) is suspected only of passing a draft policy directive on Iran to members of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a powerful Washington lobby, which in turn relayed it to the Israelis.

Given the close strategic collaboration that already exists between the United States and Israel, it's hard to understand why the Israelis would risk straining their special relationship by cultivating an intelligence source inside Donald Rumsfeld's office.

Besides, American taxpayers should very much want to know if a trusted ally



that gets a \$2 billion annual subsidy from them as spy snooping at the top levels of the U.S. government.

Complete border plan is better
Miami Herald

The Department of Homeland Security's new policy giving sweeping deportation powers to U.S. Border Patrol agents threatens the prospects of legitimate asylum seekers. Yet it does nothing to fix the underlying problem: a dysfunctional U.S. immigration system that fails to address the real reasons why up to 12 million undocumented immigrants live here.

What is needed is comprehensive immigration reform. A good start would be congressional approval of the bipartisan Ag-Jobs bill, which offers improved mechanisms for legally employing foreign workers and job protection for Americans. Another smart step would be to offer U.S. aid to spur jobs in regions, particularly in Mexico, that export workers to the United States. Encouraging employment abroad and orderly, controlled immigration across U.S. borders would free up the DHS and Border Patrol to focus on the nation's true enemies — the human smugglers, drug traffickers and terrorists. ... We share the concerns of human-rights groups and other advocates who say that the policy puts asylum seekers at risk. While it looks good on paper, the "expedited removal" policy already in use at airports and seaports has proven problematic. ... Asking [immigration officials] to sort out the asylum seekers is like asking a police officer to determine a suspect's guilt or innocence.

Working overtime to update
Rocky Mountain News, Denver

Until recently, federal overtime rules had not been altered for more than half a century, which is another way of saying they were an outdated muddle.

Now, however, it ought to be much clearer. ... But not entitled to time-and-a-half pay for hours worked in excess of 40 a week. The Bush administration deserves credit for tackling a job that was extraordinarily complicated and sure to bring wrathful accusations from political opponents.

The attack has happened, of course —

millions of workers, we are told, are facing a dreadful exploitation. Hardly likely. The new rules actually extend eligibility for millions.

The rules do clarify that the law is not meant to apply to managers or professionals or people drawing extremely handsome salaries. ... It's true, too, that the ... possibility of unintended consequences cannot be dismissed.

But the Department of Labor has promised to keep a close eye on developments and to aim for prompt redress of anything that goes wrong. ... [T]he law mainly makes federal overtime rules more rational and comprehensible. Surely that is the sort of thing Congress is supposed to do.

Athens: Lord of the rings
The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

The world held its breath when the 2004 Olympics opened in Athens. There were concerns about some venues not being ready on time, transportation systems and infrastructure breaking down, and even the threat of terrorist attacks. By the time of [last] Sunday night's closing ceremonies, an interminable dose of Euro-pop music seemed to be the biggest problem.

The clout of threatened violence persisted, but the Greeks and their allies kept athletes and spectators safe. ... It was expensive protection.

The Greeks were proud that they were able to bring the games back to their birthplace. ... Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said [last] Sunday that he had followed in detail the many demands put on his relatively small nation to stage the Olympics.

His conclusion: His country was up to the challenges. We agree.

Learn from Rumsfeld's failings
The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

There's plenty of blame to go around when it comes to the abuses against Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib. ... The Pentagon-appointed commission that reviewed the abuse found the soldiers themselves responsible. ... Yet it was higher-ups who created conditions in Iraq that cultivated abuse.

While seven soldiers face criminal charges, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and other top officials should

also have to face the consequences of their mistakes. ... Rumsfeld should resign.

The commission's report was another reminder of how many mistakes Rumsfeld has made in this war. The panel found too few American troops were deployed for the invasion, a failure to anticipate the level of resistance by insurgents and a lack of planning for a postwar occupation — all failures of Rumsfeld's leadership.

The father of one soldier involved in the abuse said his son was trained as a truck mechanic, not a prison guard.

But that truck driver became responsible for thousands of prisoners who, according to the report, consisted of "any and all suspicious-looking persons."

Rumsfeld's mistakes ... have cost lives. The mistakes have ruined other lives, including those of the soldiers who would not have committed abuse if they had been properly trained and supervised. It's time for Rumsfeld to finally take responsibility.

Don't add to voter fraud
Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

One hundred years ago, it wouldn't have been surprising for elderly black people to report that armed law enforcement officers had entered their homes and unjustly interrogated them about their votes.

It's shocking to hear that this may have happened recently in Orlando, Fla.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has been asked to investigate this issue. He should do so immediately. The interrogations might be, as Florida claims, part of a legitimate investigation of voter fraud. But if illegal behavior is found, the consequences must be severe.

With a close presidential election approaching, Ashcroft must send a strong message that voter intimidation is intolerable.

Unfortunately, the Florida situation is not unique. In South Dakota's June presidential primary, some American Indians were prevented from casting ballots if they didn't show identification. That is not required by state or federal law.

In Kentucky, some Republicans planned to put "vote challengers" in black districts on Election Day.

Both presidential candidates should denounce these kinds of tactics. Dishonest efforts to suppress minority votes sully democracy in America and must be stopped.



Sunday Horoscope

The Gemini moon kicks off this festive weekend with a friendly buzz.

Who is doing what with whom seems to be everyone's business, and this makes for a lot to talk about when the gang gets together.

With the upcoming Venus transit, what starts as a bit of information could grow into a full-blown scandalous rumor by tomorrow.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (September 5). You're fearless in so many ways that you're the bravest.

The next month shows you putting your self-concept on a line and blossoming into the fuller person because of this bravery.

Next month, diversity, experience, and take chances — especially in matters of education and employment. Love with an Aries or Cancer is terrific.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just when you think you can predict a loved one's behavior, this person will surprise you.

So don't make assumptions, and take nothing for granted. Careful planning is favored this afternoon. Picture a perfect week ahead!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may think about what you deserve and don't deserve, but the love line is much more broad-minded about this concept.

Perhaps you don't have to work for every little bit of acceptance. You are, and therefore, you are loved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your independent spirit is hyperactive. You'll feel like it's you against the world, but it's not.

You're working on a team, and your team includes people you don't even know. Think of new people you meet as being on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your critical voice steers you well toward becoming an expert, as opposed to someone who merely does a task well.

But tell that internal chatterbox to chill out for a while this afternoon. There is perfection in imperfection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life brings you challenges, but like a body builder who is determined to become freakishly strong, you might pile on more weight (so to speak).

Be extremely judicious about how

far you push yourself, or you'll get hurt!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You may require a last-minute rescue. This endears you to your "rescue."

Don't worry so much about what the score is. Sometimes, you repay a good deed by doing good in the future for someone else. Things always work out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Remind yourself of all that's going right for you — that's a lot!

This helps build your inner stability. Once bolstered, you'll feel confident enough to explore the world and engage people who are very different from yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Exceptions will be made in your favor all day long.

In fact, the only pressures you feel are self-imposed. Leave room for creativity in your own schedule, and give children plenty of room for self-expression, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Others depend on you to set them on the right path. Unfortunately, this is something every person has to do for himself or herself.

Trying to propel someone into an attitude only causes resistance. Get on with your own life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are fascinated by mysteries and rituals and will create some for yourself. Having your own special and private way of doing things can strengthen your relationship with yourself, allowing you to have more to give others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Exquisite sweeps you into a different mind-set — this is an eventful day.

An embryonic hope is uncovered tonight. Now that you know what your unconscious desire is, you must either act on it or release it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you get the chance to mix and mingle with the unknown, don't hesitate to say "yes." New people give you the opportunity to conceive yourself anew. You could present a side of yourself that surprises even you.

Creators Syndicate

Yale students put on the dog

Whenever my wife and I dress up for a night on the town, I say that we're "putting on the dog." That does this unusual expression comes from?

The phrase "putting on the dog" can actually be traced back to the 19th century, when college students at Yale are said to have worn high stiff collars known as "dog collars" as part of required dress on formal occasions. This custom may account for the use of the phrase "put on the dog" to mean "get dressed up in elegant finery." The following excerpt

from the 1871 work "Four Years at Yale" offers confirmation. "Dog" (means) style, splurge. To put on dog is to make a flashy display, to cut a swell." Of course, the expression may have existed before collegians put on the dog (in which case some other long forgotten custom may account for the phrase), but we have no earlier example of the phrase.

This column was prepared by the staff of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Webster-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Actions during stick-up ties up store owner's emotions

Dear Abby: My husband and I own a small tennis supply shop. "Jane," a 16-year-old high school student, works part time for us. Although I am 30, Jane and I have been like sisters. She is a beautiful, responsible young lady, but she has a quick temper. An incident two weeks ago has now strained our relationship.

Jane and I were closing the shop one evening when a man came into the store, flashed a gun and demanded our money.

He took us into the back room, produced a roll of duct tape and cords, told us to lie face down and said he wouldn't hurt us.

Jane suddenly wheeled around and clipped him in the jaw. Hard! The man was at least 6 feet tall, easily half a foot taller than either of us and looked ready to pummel her.

I stepped between them and tried to just tie us up and leave, at which point he obliged. We were then thoroughly taped, gagged and hogtied with the cords. Despite our valiant efforts, neither of us could get loose. My husband and I were locked for about two hours later and found us still tightly bound.

Otherwise bright, healthy teen often talks to herself

Dear Annie: I am the mother of two children, ages 22 and 16. My 16-year-old daughter, "Jeanine," is a bright young woman. She has good friends, good grades and is an altogether cheerful person.

For the past three years, I've noticed that whenever Jeanine is alone, she talks to herself a lot. I have walked by her room while she's making her bed or choosing clothes, and it seems as if she's having a conversation with someone else. These aren't one-sided conversations. It's as though she is explaining something to someone, and then responding as that person.

I wonder if this is a sign of loneliness, depression, or worse, schizophrenia.

I am reluctant to seek counseling for Jeanine because my husband is against it and I'm not sure we could afford it. Can you please give me some information so I know what I'm looking for and where to seek help?

— Worried Mom

Dear Worried: Talking to oneself is fairly common and usually harmless. For many, it's simply a way to sort out a problem. Others

Since that evening, Jane has been angry. She believes we could have fought him off, although I think she's a little embarrassed about being tied up. I know he would have clobbered us both at the very least, and I feel I did the right thing. What do you think, and how can I restore the relationship between Jane and me? I still feel ...

— Bound and Gagged in Pennsylvania

Dear Bound and Gagged: Jane has displaced her righteous anger toward the armed robber onto you. She took a terrible risk by striking out at someone who was holding a gun on the both of you. It could have provoked a tragedy.

Because you still feel "bound and gagged," you could benefit from counseling with a therapist who specializes in post-traumatic stress. And while you're at it, take Jane with you. She needs to talk and refocus her anger where it belongs. And you need to put this unfortunate incident behind you.

P.S. Since you now know from experience that you are vulnerable, please consider installing a silent alarm in your store.

use self-talk as motivation or to reinforce positive attitudes.
If possible, listen to Jeanine's conversations. Is she arguing a position, pro and con? Is she telling herself she can do better? These conversations are OK.
However, sometimes self-talk is used negatively. "I'm so stupid," and although the process is normal, the effect can be quite damaging to one's self-esteem. You'd need to step in and help her work on that.
In terms of mental health, the time to worry is when Jeanine believes someone else is talking to her. If you are concerned this may be the case, try to discuss it with her, and if necessary, ask your family doctor to refer you to a therapist, or check United Way and the YMCA for a low-cost referral.

Dear Annie: My husband's old college buddy, "Ralph," and his wife are coming to our town next week. Ralph asked if we could put them up for one or two, along with their teenage niece and nephew. We have only one spare bedroom, and I said we'd get used to them.

Since that evening, Jane has been angry. She believes we could have fought him off, although I think she's a little embarrassed about being tied up. I know he would have clobbered us both at the very least, and I feel I did the right thing. What do you think, and how can I restore the relationship between Jane and me? I still feel ...

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This same couple stayed with

Dear Abby: I am an average-looking girl. I'm not in the popular group. I used to let a classmate, "Sean," copy my homework because I'm nice and sometimes give too much.

Then one day, in the middle of class, he asked me out.

He could have asked me before or after the class, or during lunch, but he did it in the one class full of popular people.

The entire class hushed, and his best friend was beside him. I turned him down because he's popular and my parents would be late. I didn't trust him because he's popular and I'm an average girl. I like him, but I was afraid it was some kind of trick, or even a bet. Should I have given him a chance, even though he's a popular boy?

— Second Thoughts in Florida

Dear Second Thoughts: Everyone deserves a chance, even a popular boy. However, since your parents feel you are not ready to date, you did the right thing by saying no because your parents wouldn't have allowed you to go anyway.

Letters for this column — with name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.fox.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

us several years ago, and after feeding and housing them for a week, they didn't even offer to take us out for single meal. When we were in their city a few years ago, they were "unavailable" to us.

My husband and I both work. A mid-week visit would upset our routine, and I don't like to leave people in our home when we're not around. Ralph is quite well-to-do, and they could easily stay in a hotel. Having four overnight guests is a lot of work on my part (my husband doesn't help with the cooking and cleaning). So, Annie, am I a party pooper, or are they just moochers?

— Not in the Mood

Dear Not: It doesn't have to be either. They are hoping to stay with friends, and it is too much work for you to accommodate them.

Fine. Tell them they're so sorry, but that's a very busy week and you simply don't have the room. If you want, offer to treat them to dinner instead. (Make sure your husband backs you up on this.)

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Dear Abby* column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



Since that evening, Jane has been angry. She believes we could have fought him off, although I think she's a little embarrassed about being tied up. I know he would have clobbered us both at the very least, and I feel I did the right thing. What do you think, and how can I restore the relationship between Jane and me? I still feel ...

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This same couple stayed with

Brown, Yankees hit wall against Orioles

New York furious at RHP for breaking hand in clubhouse after 3-1 loss

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Brown might have punched himself out of the pennant race, and the New York Yankees are angry about it.

Brown broke his non-pitching hand when he punched a wall in the clubhouse Friday night during New York's 3-1 loss to the Baltimore Orioles.

"You just can't do this, there's no doubt about it. You've got to keep your emotions in check," Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman said. "It's a major issue that we shouldn't be dealing with. It's a problem."

Especially at this point in the year. The loss cut New York's AL East lead to just 2½ games after the Red Sox, its smallest margin since before games of June 12. The Yankees led by a season-high 10½ games on Aug. 15.

Now they might be without one of their best pitchers under the stretch. Frustrated by an injury-filled season, Brown's hot temper could cost the Yankees at the most important time.

"Stupidity," he said, choosing his words carefully.

"I reacted to frustration I'd swallowed all year. ... There are



Kevin Brown pitches in the first inning against the Baltimore Orioles on Friday in New York. Brown allowed three runs in five innings and then broke two bones in his nonpitching hand by punching a clubhouse wall.

no excuses. I let it boil over and I did something stupid. I owe my teammates an apology for letting my emotions take over like that."

Already short on starting pitching, the Yankees were unsure how long the 39-year-old right-hander might be out. He

was to be examined by a hand specialist Saturday.

"My plan is to splint it and pitch. I just pray that my stupidity didn't hurt the team," he said.

Acquired from Los Angeles last offseason, the oft-injured Brown (10-4) missed seven weeks in

June and July with a strained lower back and intestinal parasite. He tweaked his knee while covering first base on an awkward play in the fifth inning Friday, then was hit on the right forearm by Miguel Tejada's RBI single in the sixth.

Steamed by it all, he walked around the clubhouse in the middle of the sixth and punched a wall, breaking two bones in his left hand.

That was the end of his night.

After the game, Cashman and Yankees manager Joe Torre were visibly annoyed. All-Star catcher Jorge Posada refused to answer questions about Brown's injury.

Cashman said Brown could be disciplined or fired. Torre said he spoke to Brown and expressed his disappointment.

"Certainly uncalled for and unnecessary," Torre said.

"Kevin has great pride and great passion for the game. I'm sure he regrets it," teammate Alex Rodriguez said. "We've had a lot of hurdles this year. It's just another one we're going to have to overcome, and we will."

Rodrigo Lopez (11-8) shut down the Yankees' offense, Tejada got the major league-leading 122nd RBI, and the streaky Orioles won their fifth straight following a 12-game losing skid.

Boston win streak reaches 10 games

The Associated Press

BOSTON — In just 19 days, the Boston Red Sox have cut the New York Yankees' 10½-game AL East lead to 2½ games.

"We're just going to take care of what we can take care of," Boston reliever Mike Timlin said after the Red Sox beat Texas 2-0 on Friday night for their 10th straight victory. "We won today. We're going to win tomorrow."

Pedro Martinez (15-5) allowed four hits in seven innings, and Manny Ramirez and Bill Mueller homered off John Wadsworth (2-3) at Fenway Park.

The Red Sox, who have won 16 of 17 and 22 of 26, have not been this close to first place since before the games of June 12. Boston is on its longest winning streak since winning 12 in a row in August 1995.

"I expected it," Martinez said. "I thought we had the talent all the way to have a run like this one."

Keith Foulke worked the ninth for his 27th save. The Red Sox led the wild-card race by 4½ games over Anaheim and seven over Texas.

Athletics 7, Blue Jays 4: Bobby Kielty hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Ted Lilly (9-10) for a 5-4 lead, and Nick Swisher doubled and walked to win in his major league debut at SkyDome. Oakland has won 15 of 17.

Tim Hudson (11-4) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings, and Octavio Delgado pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Angels 10, Indians 5: Troy Glaus homered for the first time since May 11, and Garrett Anderson and Bengie Molina also homered for visiting Anaheim, which stayed four games behind AL West-leading Oakland.

Kelvin Escobar (9-9) improved to 4-1 in his last six starts. Scott Lorton (3-4) lost for Cleveland, which has dropped 14 of 18.

Twins 2, Royals 0: Johan Santana (16-6) didn't allow a hit at the Metrodome until Deshaun Elford



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Pedro Martinez pumps his fist after the final out of the seventh inning against the Texas Rangers in Boston on Friday.

lined a clean single to left leading off the seventh.

That was the only hit in seven innings off Santana, who won his ninth straight start.

Joe Nathan finished the two-hitter with a perfect ninth for his 38th save.

Tori Hunter and Justin Morneau hit consecutive home runs in the sixth off Darrell May (9-16), who leads the major leagues in losses.

Tigers 4, Devil Rays 2: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Jeremy Bonderman (8-11) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings to lead rookie Scott Kazmir (1-1) his first major league loss, and Druw Young hit a two-run homer to extend the Devil Rays' skid to seven games.

The remainder of the three-game series on Saturday and Sunday was postponed because of Hurricane Frances and will be made up as part of a doubleheader Sept. 30.

Esteban Yan pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

White Sox 7, Mariners 5: Juan Uribe homered, Roberto Alomar had a two-run double, and Jon Garland (10-10) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven-plus innings. Shingo Takatsu pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

Ichiro Suzuki was 1-for-4 with one RBI for the visiting Mariners, giving him a major league-leading 218 hits, and Bobby Madritsch (3-2) was the loser.

September: Cards, Twins can coast into playoffs

SEPTEMBER, FROM BACK PAGE

Atlanta, aiming for its 13th straight division title, St. Louis, Minnesota and Los Angeles all held comfortable leads going into the weekend.

"Our best baseball is ahead of us. I really believe that," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

Albert Pujols, Scott Rolen, Jim Edmonds and newcomer Larry Walker have given St. Louis the best record in the majors. The Twins, led by Cy Young candidate Johan Santana, held a big edge in the AL Central.

"I hate to be cocky, but if we lose this lead right here I don't think we should have a team," showy center fielder Tori Hunter said.

The Twins led Cleveland by nine games as the weekend approached.

According to Elias, no major league team has ever overcome such a lead edge in September to win a division or league title.

The Cardinals made up an 8½-game gap in September 1964 to win the NL pennant, helped by Philadelphia's infamous collapse under manager Gene Mauch. This year, the Phillies' fold may cost manager Larry Bowa his job.

Boston's Rich Harden's addition to a rotation that includes Mark Mulder, Tim Hudson and Barry Zito, the Oakland Athletics were holding off Anaheim and Texas in the AL West.

Seattle is the only team in the AL West out of contention, a

No determination had been made, the official said.

Brown is earning \$15 million this year and is due \$15 million in 2005, the final season of his \$105 million, seven-year deal.

He is the first pitcher to hurt himself in anger. Cardinals closer Jason Isringhausen broke his right wrist punching a garage can while on a minor league rehab assignment with the Mets in 1997.

St. Louis reliever Mike Matthews dislocated a bone in his pitching hand in 2000 when he punched the dugout bench in frustration.

Brown dropped to 1-3 in his last five starts and 3-8 lifetime against Baltimore. He allowed three runs and five hits in six innings, struck out seven and walked two.

"Kevin has great pride and great passion for the game. I'm sure he regrets it," teammate Alex Rodriguez said. "We've had a lot of hurdles this year. It's just another one we're going to have to overcome, and we will."

Rodrigo Lopez (11-8) shut down the Yankees' offense, Tejada got the major league-leading 122nd RBI, and the streaky Orioles won their fifth straight following a 12-game losing skid.

tough way for Edgar Martinez to go out in his final season.

But Suzuki is on a tear for the Mariners. With 218 hits left on Friday, he had 28 games left to break George Sisler's record of 257 hits made in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

"He's on the verge of doing something nobody else has ever done in this game," Mariners manager Bob Melvin said. "Even in Little League, you'd see numbers like this. It's ridiculous."

With their hefty stats, Boston sluggers Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, Anaheim star Vladimir Guerrero and the Yankees' clutch-hitting Gary Sheffield are in contention for the AL MVP award. Adrian Beltré of the Dodgers is right there for the NL honor.

For some clubs, 2004 is not going to be their year. The Montreal Expos might not even be around next season — no decision yet from Bud Selig. And then again, some things just won't get settled this year.

In their final meeting this season, the Astros and Cubs got testy at Wrigley Field. A Lance Berkman sailed close to his helmet and he went to the ground — Berkman said "it didn't hit me square," and the Cubs accused him of faking it.

Chances are, the Astros and Cubs and all of their hard throwers will square that squabble in 2005.

Associated Press sports writer Jamie McCauley contributed this story.

Nevin revives Padres with three-run homer

San Diego stays in tight wild-card race, rallies from five runs down vs. Colorado

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Phil Nevin was so happy after his go-ahead, three-run homer that he hit teammate Mark Loretta almost as hard as he did the baseball.

"That was some pent-up energy," Loretta said after the San Diego Padres rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Colorado Rockies 7-6 Friday night. "He just about bruised my kidneys slapping me on the back."

Nevin, known as much for his hot temper as his bat, chuckled when told of Loretta's comment.

"People have been saying all along I don't show emotion when I do something good; it's only when something bad happens," Nevin said. "It was exciting. I actually get happy and excited sometimes when something good happens."

The Padres, in a tight wild-card race, needed this one. The seven runs matched the Padres' total in their previous three games, when they were swept on the road by the St. Louis Cardinals, who have baseball's best record.

"Hopefully the way we won, coming back, will kind of pole-vault us for a while," Nevin said. "We were playing great baseball until we went to St. Louis."

The Padres trailed 5-4 before Nevin drove an 0-2 slider from rookie Scott Dohmann an estimated 421 feet into the Padres' bullpen beyond the center-field fence for his 20th home run. Loretta singled with two outs and Brian Giles walked to bring up Nevin.

Nevin "hadn't proved to us all day he could hit a slider," Dohmann said. "Until he does, we weren't going to change. But I threw an 0-2 strike and you can't do that."

Said manager Clint Hurdle: "Nevin does what he does with hanging sliders. He drives nice cars because he hits home runs off hanging sliders."

The Padres are third in the wild-card race, two games behind Chicago and 1½ games behind division rival San Francisco.

"To turn around a game like that should give us some momentum," Loretta said.

Vinny Castilla homered twice



San Diego Padres' Phil Nevin, left, and Mark Loretta, after his three-run homer in the seventh inning against the Colorado Rockies on Friday in San Diego.

and drove in four runs for the Rockies. He had a two-run shot off David Wells in the third and a solo shot off Akinori Otsuka in the eighth that pulled the Rockies to 7-6. He has 29 homers, and is second in the NL with 112 RBIs.

The Rockies took a 5-0 lead against Wells before the Padres rallied.

After Jason Jennings loaded the bases by allowing two singles and a walk with one out in the

fifth, Loretta doubled into the gap in right-center to drive in two runs. A third scored on an error on second baseman Clint Barnes, whose relay throw to the plate bounced off catcher Todd Greene.

Loretta scored on Brian Giles' groundout to pull the Padres to 5-4 before Nevin struck out.

Scott Linebrink (6-1) pitched a perfect seventh for the win. Trevor Hoffman pitched the ninth for his 34th save in 38 chances.

Bonds within three homers of 700 club

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds is three home runs away from joining Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth in baseball's 700 club.

Bonds hit his 697th homer in the San Francisco Giants' 18-7 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday night, a two-run shot off Edgardo Gonzalez (0-8) in the second inning.

The six-time MVP finished 1-for-2 with a sacrifice fly and two intentional walks, upping his major league record to 100 this season. The second intentional walk came with the Giants leading 11-6 in the fifth inning.

"Maybe we should take away that 697 number (from the outfield wall)," manager Felipe Alou said. "Maybe they'd pitch to him a little more. That's intimidating."

Bonds' home run, his 39th of the year and first in five games since his two-homer night Tuesday in Atlanta, was the biggest stat in a game overflowing with offensive numbers. Edgardo Alfonzo had five hits, J.T. Snow added four hits and Cody Ransom, who entered the game with nine RBIs in his career, drove in four runs.

"These kinds of games just happen," said Duster Mohr, who has a two-run double. "They haven't happened for us very often, but sometimes you go out there and hit everything you swing at. But it's still just a game."

Veteran right-hander Javy Bureba (4-1), acquired from Milwaukee on Thursday, got the win with two innings of scoreless relief.

Bonds only has two games left on the home stand to hit No. 700 in front of the home-town faithful. He faces Stephen Radford on Saturday and Randy Johnson in the series finale before San Francisco visits Colorado on Tuesday night, the start of an eight-game trip.

Astros 8, Pirates 6: Roger Clemens got his



St. Louis starter Matt Morris struck out a season-high 11 and allowed just two hits in a 3-0 victory over Los Angeles on Friday.

325th win to pass Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for sole possession of 12th place on the career list, and the surging Astros won at Minute Maid Park for their season-high seventh consecutive victory.

Jeff Bagwell, Carlos Beltran, Craig Biggio and Jose Vizcaino homered to help Houston improve to 10-1 in its last 11 games and close within 2½ games of the idle Cubs in the wild-card race.

Clemens (15-4) allowed four runs and six hits in 6½ innings. The Rocket even added a run-scoring single in the sixth for his seventh RBI of the season.

Cardinals 3, Dodgers 0: Matt Morris

pitched a two-hitter to help the Cardinals win their seventh straight, striking out a season-high 11 in the matchup of division leaders.

Reggie Sanders homered, doubled and had two RBIs. Mike Matheny also homered for the Cardinals, who have won 11 of 13 overall and are a major league-best 90-44.

Morris (15-8) won his third straight start and walked none. He retired his last 14 batters in his second shutout this season.

Braves 7, Expos 1: Paul Byrd pitched eight strong innings, and Eli Marrero homered at Olympic Stadium to help Atlanta extend its winning streak to four games.

Byrd (6-4), who returned June 19 from Tommy John surgery after missing all of the 2003 season, allowed four hits, struck out five and walked two.

J.D. Drew hit an RBI single in the third to extend his hitting streak to 12 games. The Braves had nine hits, ended a streak of 12 straight games of 10 or more.

Phillies 8, Mets 1: Gavin Floyd held the Mets to four hits over seven innings in his major league debut, sending New York to its seventh straight loss.

Pat Burrell homered in his first game since Aug. 3, Jason Michaels homered twice and Placido Polanco also connected for the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

The Mets, coming off a 1-10 homestand, have lost 12 of 13.

Brewers 11, Reds 4: At Milwaukee, Geoff Jenkins and Wes Helms drove in three runs each, and Scott Podsednik tied a career high with four hits for the Brewers.

Helms and Gary Bennett homered for Milwaukee, which scored its most runs since beating Anaheim 12-2 on June 9 and won consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 8-10. Milwaukee is 13-35 since the All-Star break.

Wes Obermueller (5-7) allowed four runs, six hits and four walks in six innings.

Giambi mum on report of tumor

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankees slugger Jason Giambi still wants to keep his medical situation private, even though a newspaper report Friday detailed the location and treatment of his benign tumor.

Citing three anonymous major league sources, the Daily News reported that Giambi has been getting treatment for a tumor in his pituitary gland, which is about the size of a pea and is located at the base of the brain.

The newspaper said the treatment includes a form of steroids that does not enhance athletic performance, and was approved by Major League Baseball.

The Yankees would not confirm the report, spokesman Rick Cerrone and General Manager Brian Cashman said. The team released a short statement about the "published speculation" with Giambi's comments.

"While I understand the continuing speculation surrounding the details of my medical condition, I continue to believe that it is a private matter. I appreciate the fact that the media has a job to do, but my focus now is on returning and contributing to this team," Giambi said.

Padres LHP Hitchcock retires

SAN DIEGO — Left-hander Sterling Hitchcock, the hero of San Diego's 1998 playoff run, retired Friday night after 12 years in the big leagues.

The 33-year-old Hitchcock, who had reconstructive surgery on his left elbow in 2001, was plagued by hip, groin and elbow injuries this season after returning to the Padres as a free agent. He strained his elbow on Aug. 22, forcing him out of a game against Florida.

Hitchcock helped pitch the Padres into the 1998 World Series, going 2-0 with a 0 ERA against the Atlanta Braves to earn MVP honors in the NL championship series. The Padres were swept in the World Series by the Yankees.

Suspensions overturned for Red Sox's Nixon, Kapler

BOSTON — Red Sox outfielders Gabe Kapler and Fred Nixon had their three-game suspensions overturned on Friday for their roles in an on-field brawl with the New York Yankees on July 24.

Alex Rodriguez and Jason Varitek already have served four-game suspensions. After Bronson Arroyo and Mark Lueke with a pitch, Rodriguez started talking. Varitek pushed the Yankee third baseman in the face and players rushed from their dugouts.

Yankees pitcher Tanyon Sturtze appeared to get Kapler in a headlock, and Nixon and David Ortiz of the Red Sox joined the tussle. Sturtze was bleeding from the left ear when he left the field.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League									
East Division					Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	51	.619	-	Minnesota	75	56	.567	-
Boston	79	63	.603	7 1/2	Chicago	66	67	.496	9 1/2
Baltimore	67	81	.466	20 1/2	Cleveland	60	83	.420	18 1/2
Texas	55	92	.372	29 1/2	Detroit	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Toronto	56	79	.415	27 1/2	Kansas City	53	83	.389	18 1/2
West Division									
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	75	58	.567	-	Los Angeles	64	74	.464	10 1/2
Oakland	64	79	.448	11 1/2	San Diego	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Los Angeles	62	74	.454	10 1/2	Colorado	53	83	.389	18 1/2
San Diego	62	74	.454	10 1/2	San Francisco	53	83	.389	18 1/2
Colorado	53	83	.389	18 1/2	San Francisco	53	83	.389	18 1/2
San Francisco	53	83	.389	18 1/2	San Francisco	53	83	.389	18 1/2
National League									
East Division					Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	75	58	.567	-	St. Louis	64	74	.464	10 1/2
Florida	64	74	.464	10 1/2	Chicago	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Philadelphia	62	74	.454	10 1/2	St. Louis	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Washington	53	83	.389	18 1/2	Chicago	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Montreal	53	83	.389	18 1/2	St. Louis	62	74	.454	10 1/2
West Division									
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	75	58	.567	-	St. Louis	64	74	.464	10 1/2
San Francisco	64	74	.464	10 1/2	Chicago	62	74	.454	10 1/2
San Diego	62	74	.454	10 1/2	St. Louis	62	74	.454	10 1/2
Colorado	53	83	.389	18 1/2	Chicago	62	74	.454	10 1/2
San Francisco	53	83	.389	18 1/2	St. Louis	62	74	.454	10 1/2

—T-25.3, A-28.48 (50.98).

USC's Leinart ready for new challenges

Trojans' QB leading inexperienced team after surpassing expectations

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — As Matt Leinart drifted toward the left sideline, scrambling to buy extra time, he motioned David Kirtman to break off his route and go downfield.

With Virginia Tech defenders closing in, Leinart looped a perfectly thrown pass that dropped into Kirtman's arms with two defenders hanging all over him.

Leinart's creativity was good for 26 yards and a first down, and the top-ranked Trojans went on to beat the Hokies 24-13 last weekend in their season-opener.

"You react. You don't even think," Leinart said this week when asked about the play. "I'm just real comfortable playing. That stuff happens. You just play. It was a great catch."

And maybe an even better throw, just what the Trojans have come to expect from their rangy quarterback.

It wasn't always that way. Leinart went from a redshirt sophomore who had never thrown a pass at the collegiate level to a star last season, leading Southern California to a share of the national championship.

He finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy voting.

Now, playing behind an inexperienced offensive line and without standout receivers Mike Williams and Keary Colbert to torment opposing secondaries, Leinart and the Trojans might be hard-pressed to defend their crown.

Colbert is playing for the defending NFC champion Carolina Panthers, and Williams is ineligible because the NCAA refused to reinstate him after his bid to turn pro early was blocked by the courts. The top returning receiver is sophomore Steve Smith, who had 17 receptions for 319 yards and two TDs last season.

"It's a good challenge for us," said the 6-foot-5, 225-pound Leinart. "It's a little different not seeing Keary or Mike out there. But all our guys are capable. They'll be fine."

And so will USC, which was the preseason pick to be the first repeat national champion since Nebraska in 1994-95.

Leinart and the Trojans were shaky at the outset of the Virginia Tech game; he misfired on his first four passes before completing 19 of his last 25 for 272 yards and three touchdowns.

"He's a whole different person right now," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "He's the man. His teammates know it. Last year, other

guys were helping him. Now he's helping other guys. He has the effect on other people that great players do; he makes other players better."

Leinart completed 255 of 402 passes for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns with only nine interceptions last season — comparable numbers to what Carson Palmer compiled in winning the Heisman Trophy the previous year.

"He really didn't do his best stuff until he took over, once we named him the starter," Carroll said of Leinart. "He just didn't look back. He maximized his opportunity."

Leinart admitted he surpassed his own expectations last season.

"I couldn't imagine playing the way I did," he said. "It was a fun year. I kind of surprised a lot of people, including myself."

Leinart said he received quite an education in his first two years at USC, even though he didn't throw a pass in competition.

One of his teachers was Palmer, and the two remain close.

"He calls me every week," Leinart said. "He called me quite a few times last year. He's a great person. I really look up to him. I learned a lot from him on and off the field."

Fourth-year USC offensive co-

ordinator Norm Chow said Leinart is as good as any quarterback he's coached, and that includes Philip Rivers at North Carolina State, Steve Young and Jim McMahon at Brigham Young and Palmer.

Chow brushed off the premise that Leinart was simply a product of Chow's system.

"The system is a bunch of plays. It's him. It's a young man making plays," Chow said. "I've been real lucky to have good players, especially good quarterbacks. You've got to be bright, you've got to be accurate. He's both."

Smith agreed.

"He's one of the smartest guys I've been around. He knows the system inside and out. He's our leader. We all know it," the wide receiver said.

Chow said Leinart and Palmer have similar personalities.

"Class, family guys," Chow said. "They're humble, disciplined, easygoing, laid back. But very competitive once you get them out on the football field."

Unlike Williams, Leinart plans on using all his eligibility at USC, meaning he'll be around for two more years.

"I just want to play the college game as long as I can. I love it here," he said. "I'm pretty much guaranteeing I'm coming back."



Southern California's Matt Leinart went from untested sophomore to star quarterback and team leader for the Trojans last season.

Leinart has achieved stardom despite understating operations at ages 2 and 14 because of the lazy eye he was born with.

"I wasn't like the nerd. I was cross-eyed," he said. "It was tough, not so much wearing the glasses. Kids are mean to each other sometimes. They made fun of me. Luckily, I was pretty good in sports."

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Air Force slammed by No. 13 Cal, 56-14

No upset for Falcons this time as Bears pull away in second half

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — J.J. Arrington ran for 181 yards and three touchdowns, and Aaron Rodgers threw for 208 yards and a touchdown to help No. 13 California pull away from Air Force in the second half of a 56-14 victory Saturday.

Air Force knocked off Cal the last time the Bears were ranked in 2002 and another upset appeared to be brewing when the Falcons were within seven points at halftime.

But after struggling with Air Force's triple option early, Cal figured out its assignments and started stringing the Falcons out toward the sideline.

Air Force had 214 yards its first three drives, but just 12 in its next four. The Falcons finished with 271 yards — 56 in the second half — and weren't much better on the defense, giving up most points on passing plays in school history. Cal's offense got off to a quick start and never really slowed.

The Bears had touchdowns on their first three possessions and put the game away with five more in the second half. Cal finished with 573 yards to survive a difficult opening road test in a season that started with the school's highest preseason ranking in 50 years.

It just took a little while to dispatch the pesky Falcons.

Cal used a mix of short passes

and runs behind the tackles to move 80 yards in 12 plays on its first drive. Arrington capped it with an 11-yard touchdown run, taking off right and cutting back through a hole up the middle to score easily.

Then Air Force did what it does best: control the clock.

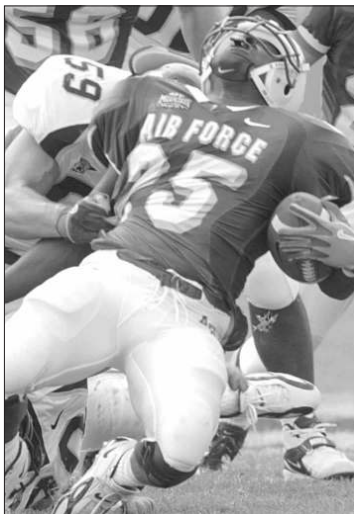
With Shaun Carney looking more like a veteran than the first freshman quarterback to start on opening day, the Falcons chewed up more than 6 minutes on the first drive. Carney finished off the 17-play, 77-yard march, hitting Robert McMenomy on a 10-yard touchdown pass over the middle.

Cal didn't waste any time answering, moving 80 yards in eight plays for another Arrington touchdown run. This time the senior took off left and cut back to the middle to go in untouched for a 4-yard score.

Air Force kept churning away on its next drive until Cal's Matt Giordano stepped in front of Andy Messerli for an interception at the Bears' 9-yard line. Arrington moved 89 yards up the middle on the next play, setting up Rodgers' 1-yard touchdown drive that made it 21-7.

But Carney shrugged off the pick, keeping Air Force's option in a rhythm on an 80-yard drive that ended with fullback Dan Shaffer's 1-yard touchdown on an option play.

Air Force's defense finally stiffened after that, forcing Cal to



Air Force cornerback Nate Allen (59) twisted back to defend against California's Anthony Butler (39) during the second quarter Saturday. Cal went on to defeat Air Force 56-14.

punt twice to end the first half just seven points behind.

Arrington scored on a 1-yard drive over the top to open the third quarter, then Chase Lyman followed with a 78-yard touchdown catch after cornerback Nate Allen slipped with just over a minute left.

Terrell Williams opened the fourth quarter with an 11-yard touchdown run. Marshawn Lynch scored on a 43-yard run and Justin Forsett capped the 35-point half with a 13-yard touchdown run.

Carney finished with 75 yards on 18 carries and was 9-for-15 for 89 yards passing.

Backup QB delivers for No. 8 Michigan

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Freshman Chad Henne threw two touchdowns in a surprising start for Michigan, helping the eighth-ranked Wolverines to a 43-10 victory over Miami of Ohio on Saturday that ended the nation's longest winning streak.

Matt Gutierrez was supposed to start, but he was relegated to holding on kicks because of a sore arm, creating an opportunity for Henne. Rick Leach is the only other quarterback to start as a freshman for the Wolverines. Leach led Michigan to a victory on Sept. 13, 1975, at Wisconsin.

Henne, wearing the same No. 7 Leach and Drew Henson wore, was 14-for-24 for 142 yards with one interception. Braylon Edwards caught six passes for 91 yards, two TDs, and David Underwood gained 61 yards with two touchdowns on 22 carries.

The RedHawks (-1) had won 14 straight games, 13 times last year with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Roethlisberger, a first-round draft pick by the Pittsburgh Steelers, saw his replace-

AP Top 25 roundup

ment have a rough day as he walked from the sideline.

Josh Betts was 18-for-36 for 201 yards with four interceptions and a fumble. He accounted for four TDs last week in a 49-0 rout over Division I-AA Indiana State.

Martin Nance and Michael Larkin combined for nine receptions and 108 yards, but Miami struggled to run the ball. Luke Clemens had 13 carries for 32 yards.

No. 19 Iowa 39, Kent St. 7: At Iowa City, Iowa, Drew Tate threw two touchdowns in his first start and the Hawkeyes turned in a dominating defensive performance.

The Hawkeyes held the Golden Flashes to 110 total yards and minus-13 yards rushing.

Kent State, playing without suspended quarterback Joshua Cribbs, crossed midfield just once, late in the third quarter. Iowa linebacker Chad Greenway had two interceptions, returning his second 30 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The only score for Kent State came late in the first half when linebacker Jack Williams picked off a pass in the end zone and ran 100 yards for a touchdown, the longest interception return in school history.

Tate was 13-for-22 passing for 136 yards, but he left the game before Iowa's first possession of the third quarter because of dehydration. The sophomore also rushed for 39 yards on four carries and led Iowa to a 23-7 halftime lead.

Albert Young, a redshirt freshman, rushed for 82 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries, but did not play much in the second half when the game was out of reach.

The Hawkeyes scored on their opening drive, marching 45 yards in nine plays. The key play was Tate's 35-yard toss over the middle to Ed Hinkel, who eluded several tacklers before being brought down at the 18-yard line. But the drive stalled, setting up a 20-yard field goal by Kyle Schlicher to put Iowa up 3-0.

One possession later, the Hawkeyes marched 66 yards in 14 plays, capped by Tate's 9-yard

screen pass to Matt Mello, who caught the ball in the flat and darted up the middle of the field for score.

Kent State tried some trickery on their next possession. But a fake punt failed when freshman Tommy Sitko overthrew his target, giving Iowa the ball near mid-field. Iowa scored 10 plays later when Young dove into the end zone from a yard out, putting the Hawkeyes up 17-0 with 10:23 left in the half.

No. 21 Wisconsin 34, Central Florida 6: At Madison, Wis., John Stocco threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score in his first start for the Badgers.

Anthony Davis rushed for 78 yards and a touchdown for the Badgers but late in the first half after taking a hard hit at the end of a 21-yard run. The school didn't announce details of Davis' injury.

Davis missed five full games last year with ankle injuries and the Badgers are counting on his return to health, especially with 2003 leading rusher Dwayne Smith out because of a recently discovered heart disorder.

White throws three TDs for No. 2 Sooners

By JEFF LATZKE

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Kejuan Jones rushed for a career-high 148 yards and a touchdown, and Mark Clayton caught two of Jason White's three touchdown passes, leading No. 2 Oklahoma to a 40-24 victory over Bowling Green on Saturday.

White, the returning Heisman Trophy winner, completed 20 of 30 passes for 224 yards, but also threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

Adrian Peterson, the Sooners' top-rated high-school recruit, flashed brilliance with a 35-yard touchdown run and finished with 100 yards on 16 carries. But he also fumbled out of bounds on two of his first six carries.

With White recovered from knee surgery and a broken bone in his left foot, Oklahoma's offense was able to operate frequently with White under center instead of in the shotgun. The Sooners' offensive line — which returned all five starters from last season — opened huge holes for Jones to run through and prevented White from being sacked.

The oft-injured White was hit hard only twice — on a 2-yard run on a busted play to end the first quarter and following an incomplete pass in the second quarter. He even pulled the ball down and ran 6 yards for a first down early in the fourth quarter.

White, the first Heisman winner to return since BYU's Ty Detmer in 1991, was brilliant early. He went 12-for-15 in the first half and one incompletion receiver Brandon Jones in the hands.

No. 16 Virginia handily beats lowly Temple

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Wali Lundy ran for 104 yards and three touchdowns, and Alvin Pearman returned a punt 70 yards for a score to lead No. 16 Virginia to a 44-14 victory over Temple on Saturday.

Not surprisingly, this wasn't much of a game as Temple was awfully even by its own low standards.

The Owls had porous pass protection, off-target throws and more fumbles (four) than third-down conversions (two). It seemed like one big lowlight reel of why the Owls have 13 straight losses in a season and are getting kicked out of the Big East after this season.

Cavaliers fans even took over Temple's homefield, with most of the lower bowl of Lincoln Financial Field filled with orange-clad Virginia supporters.

It got ugly early as the Cavaliers backed up their highest ranking since 1998 and extended Temple's losing streak against Top 25 teams to 18 games.

K Andersen out of a job

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Morten Andersen, the second-leading scorer in the NFL, was told Friday he has lost his job to a younger

NFL briefs

Kansas City Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said.

The 44-year-old Andersen has 2,259 points since breaking into the NFL with New Orleans in 1982. Only Gary Anderson has more points.

"Morten Andersen I think will kick in the league," Vermeil said. "If he's not kicking in the league and our decision ends up not being a good decision, we'll bring him back."

Kicking for the Chiefs will be 26-year-old Lawrence Tynes,

who is coming off two successful seasons in the Canadian Football League and has a longer range than Andersen.

Packers trade S Anderson to Raiders for picks

Green Bay traded second safety Marques Anderson to the Oakland Raiders on Friday for a fifth- and sixth-round pick in the 2005 draft.

Oakland strong safety Derrick Gibson dislocated his right shoulder in a game on Thursday, and Anderson will be given an opportunity to start.

Ravens' Ogden questionable

BALTIMORE — Baltimore Ravens left tackle Jonathan Ogden sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee during an exhibition game Thursday and is questionable for the season opener.

Final finale for Palmer

Bengals QB impressive in last exhibition

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Other than a premature touchdown celebration on a goal-line fumble, Carson Palmer looked like an up-and-coming quarterback Friday night during the Cincinnati Bengals' 16-13 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

The 2002 Heisman Trophy winner who didn't take a snap as a rookie looked ready to go in his first pro season game. He made good decisions against a basic Colts defense — except for his celebration, that is — and kept the offense moving in three possessions.

Palmer went 10-for-14 for 106 yards, including a 7-yard TD pass to fullback James Lynch. He thought he had another.

On a first-down play from the Indianapolis 10, Palmer adeptly pulled off a screen pass to Rodi Johnson, who lunged for the goal line. Donald Strickland stripped the ball, forcing Johnson to land in the end zone empty-handed.

Palmer pointed at the sky in celebration, unaware that Colts linebacker David Thornton had picked up the fumble and was now rumbling his way. A stunned Palmer stopped his celebration and gave chase before Chad Johnson ran down Thornton.

It was one of Palmer's few awkward moments in a solid preseason.

He completed 55 percent of his



Cincinnati's Carson Palmer went 10-for-14 for 106 yards and a touchdown Friday in the Bengals' 16-13 victory over Indianapolis.

throws with four touchdowns, two interceptions and a respectable passer rating of 88.5.

"I'm not sure the numbers mean a whole lot," Palmer said. "As soon as the fourth quarter of this game is over, my thoughts start turning to the New York Jets. That's what really matters. That's what I'll be judged on."

Cautionary note: Akili Smith had a 9.04 passer rating in the 2000 preseason, then led the Bengals to a 2-8 mark when he was benched.

"I'm very satisfied," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said of his young quarterback's showing. "I really think what we need to do is focus in and game plan and take advantage of what the other team is doing."

No one needs to worry about the Colts' passing game — as long as Peyton Manning stays healthy.

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Three TDs in final 5:14 lift Jets

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Jets rallied from a 27-7 deficit, scoring three touchdowns in the last 5:14 Friday night to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 28-27 in their last exhibition game of the season.

Brooks Bollinger's 1-yard pass to Matt Dominguez, with 8 seconds to go capped the comeback, which came against Philadelphia's second and third-stringers.

Bollinger entered with seven minutes remaining, replacing the rusty Quincy Carter. He led New York to Ian Smart's 1-yard TD run on a drive highlighted by Ken-Yon Rambo's 52-yard catch and run.

The Jets then went 27 yards after rookie Roderick Bryan's interception, scoring on Bollinger's 4-yard pass to Terrance Stubbs with 3:10 remaining.

After forcing a punt, they concluded their charge with a 12-play, 87-yard drive.

Bollinger, making a case to remain Chad Pennington's backup, was 11-for-20 for 168 yards.

The Eagles earlier converted two turnovers into touchdowns. Ken Bettner threw a 30-yard scoring pass immediately after an interception by rookie Brendan



How in the second quarter, and Jeff Blake hit Sean Morey with a 5-yarder on the first series of the third period. New York's Little John Flowers fumbled the second-half kickoff.

In other games on Friday:

Redskins 27, Falcons 0: Washington quarterback Mark Brunell, who won the starting job over Patrick Ramsey, went 4-for-6 for 51 yards on a 78-yard opening drive and was done for the night in Landover, Md.

Ladell Betts finished the drive with a 5-yard run and added a 3-yard score in the first quarter.

Michael Vick committed two turnovers in five snaps over three series. Vick's first pass was a desperation lob picked off by safety Matt Bowen. On the first play of the next series, LaVar Arrington forced Vick to fumble, and Antonio Pierce picked up the ball and ran 23 yards for a touchdown, capping a 24-point first quarter for the Redskins.

Vick finished 0-for-3 with one interception and one fumble.

Manning played only one series on Friday, toying with a defense that was one of the league's worst last season but is hoping to do much better with an overhauled secondary.

The early returns aren't good. Manning was three of four for 56 yards, throwing two of the game's prettiest passes. His down-and-out to Reggie Wayne was right where it needed to be on the receiver's outside shoulder just as he made his cut to the sideline and started his comeback for a 9-yard reception.

On the next play, Wayne ran right past comebacker Tony James and Manning hit him in stride for a 38-yard touchdown play that said the Colts could have had a lot more if they wanted.

"That's something we wanted to do," Manning said. "We were determined to go in and have a good drive. Reggie just ran right by the guy. We'll take that all the time."

Cash Tony Dungy had seen enough.

"That's kind of what we wanted," Dungy said. "We wanted to be sharp. We did a crisp job of moving the ball down the field. The (starters) knew they'd be out after that first drive."

Once the starters left, the game deteriorated into a mix-and-match affair with backups trying to make an impression. Include Colts backup quarterback Cory Sauter in that group.

Sauter, trying to win the No. 2 spot, went eight of 11 for 86 yards, most of them on short throws. He didn't have much time behind a makeshift line, and led the Colts to two field goals and a missed attempt in five possessions.

Bengals rookie running back Chris Perry pulled his hamstring in the second half and left the game. He carried 14 times for 63 yards.

Dolphins 20, Saints 19: In New Orleans, Jay Fiedler threw for one touchdown, Sage Rosenfels threw for another and Miami won a game they did not want to play as Hurricane Frances headed toward Florida.

Michael Lewis returned a punt 70 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter and caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from J.T. O'Sullivan in the final minutes to put the Saints within one point. On the two-point attempt, O'Sullivan's pass was caught by Zach Hillen out of the end zone.

Browns 24, Bears 10: Jeff Garcia overcame several penalties and a few drops to throw his first touchdown pass of the year, and rookie Luke McCown threw two TD passes in the fourth quarter to rally the host Browns from a 10-7 halftime deficit.

Garcia finished five of 13 for 84 yards.

Chicago's Rex Grossman went two of nine for 31 yards.

Titans 27, Packers 7: In his first exhibition game of the season, Titans comeback Samari Rolle tipped a pass to linebacker Keith Bulluck, who returned the interception 70 yards for a touchdown, and then picked off the Favre pass to help Tennessee win in Nashville, Tenn.



Jeremy Mayfield, right, qualified second for Sunday's Pop Secret 500 at California Speedway, and Evernham Motorsports teammate Kasey Kahne, center, will start fifth. An unidentified crew member stands at left.

Teammates fighting to get into top 10

Evernham's Mayfield, Kahne look for good results in Pop Secret 500

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — Jeremy Mayfield is excited about the race for a top-10 position in NASCAR's Nextel Cup series.

"It's pretty cool that it's coming down this close just for 10th," Mayfield said Friday after qualifying right behind pole-winner Brian Vickers for the Pop Secret 500 at California Speedway.

"We could come down eighth or ninth this weekend. You never know any more what's going to happen and how the race is going to end up."

There are lots of drivers on the bubble or close to it heading into Sunday's race, one of only two remaining before the championship contenders are pared to the top 10 for the 10-race run to the title.

Mayfield and Evernham Motorsports teammate Kasey Kahne are among the drivers who need a good race this weekend.

Both got off to a good start Friday, with Kahne qualifying fifth. The qualifying effort by Mayfield, tied for 12th in the points, and Kahne, 11th, overshadowed the second career pole by the 20-year-old Vickers, who turned a lap of 187.417 mph, and the

Nextel Cup

strong showing by 48-year-old Bill Elliott, the semiretired former series champion who qualified at 186.364 despite running in only his fifth race of the season and first since early last month at Indianapolis.

"The car was awesome," Vickers said. "The guys did a good job. It stuck. What else can I say?"

Mayfield slipped in between the youngest and oldest drivers in the race with a lap of 186.364, with Kurt Busch right behind Elliott at 185.955 and Kahne next at 185.816.

"This is such a hard sport for everything to go right," said Mayfield, who will go into Sunday's race trailing 10th-place Ryan Newman by 35 points.

Kahne was happy with his qualifying effort, but said the whole Evernham team, from owner Ray Evernham to the workers who stay in the shop in Statesville, N.C., are focused right now on getting into the top 10.

"We have to run good this weekend or we're going to be battling for 11th the rest of the year, and that wouldn't be as much fun," Kahne said.

Pop Secret 500 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying Sunday's race
at California Speedway
Fontana, Calif.

Race distance: 500 miles, 250 laps
Car number in parentheses

1. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 187.417 mph
- (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 186.364
- (88) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 186.306
- (7) Kurt Busch, Ford, 185.955
- (9) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 185.816
- (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 185.802
- (7) Jeff Green, Ford, 185.773
- (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 185.658
- (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 185.567
- (10) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 185.553
- (11) Mark Martin, Ford, 185.529
- (19) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 185.266
- (42) Jeff Green, Dodge, 185.261
- (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 185.180
- (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 184.810
- (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 184.772
- (41) Elliott Sauter, Ford, 184.617
- (48) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 184.374
- (19) Carl Edwards, Ford, 184.360
- (12) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 184.125
- (11) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 184.100
- (11) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 184.071
- (27) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 184.021
- (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 184.021
- (32) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 184.021
- (8) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 183.932
- (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 183.899
- (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 183.784
- (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 183.673
- (22) Shane Fenley, Dodge, 183.613
- (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 183.589
- (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 183.486
- (11) J.J. Yeley, Chevrolet, 183.243
- (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 183.206
- (41) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 182.987
- (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 182.788
- (30) Boris Sadler, Chevrolet, 182.778
- (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 182.741
- (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 182.551
- (40) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, Provisional
- (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, Provisional
- (41) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, Provisional
- (52) Jeff Fuller, Dodge, Provisional
- (36) Derrick Cope, Ford, Provisional

Failed to qualify:
44. (37) Kevin Lepage, Dodge, 180.591
45. (62) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, 180.578
46. (35) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 179.368
47. (59) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 178.591
48. (72) Kirk Sheldermire, Ford, 178.192

Ga. Tech admits certifying athletes who weren't eligible

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia Tech acknowledged Friday that it certified 17 athletes as eligible when they had not met the NCAA's academic requirements.

Athletic director Dave Braine said the violations — which Georgia Tech considers secondary — were reported to the NCAA. The school offered to penalize itself, but did not reveal the nature of its proposed sanctions.

"Certainly there was no deliberate attempt to incorrectly certify student-athletes," Braine said in a statement. "At the time, we believed that these athletes had met all the necessary criteria."

Seventeen athletes from four different sports were certified as eligible when they had not met NCAA requirements. The violations occurred over the last five years.

Georgia Tech did not release the names of the athletes, citing privacy laws.

All but one of the athletes earned the required 24 credit hours for the academic year with an acceptable grade point average, the school said.

"All of the cases can be characterized as errors of opinion, not commission," Braine said. "Still, we accept responsibility for the mistakes that were made, and we have new procedures in place to prevent future errors."

He said six of the athletes had graduated, while two more are on track to earn their degrees this school year.

"The remainder," Braine added, "have made significant progress toward their degrees."

Vanderbilt football coach Johnson receives extension

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson signed a new contract Friday, less than a day before the Commodores were to open the season against South Carolina. Terms of the deal were not released.

Johnson is 4-20 with one Southeastern Conference victory in two seasons leading the Commodores. Vanderbilt has not had a

Sports briefs

winning season since 1982, but returns 21 of 22 starters this season.

The Commodores snapped a 23-game conference losing skid the worst in the nation, against Kentucky last November.

Johnson accepted the job at Vanderbilt one day after leading Furman to the Division I-AA national championship game in 2001.

UCLA wide receiver Perry cleared to play

LOS ANGELES — But Perry was cleared by the NCAA on Friday to play for UCLA this season, giving the Bruins a major boost at wide receiver.

Perry, a senior who also returns kicks, was academically ineligible last season and dismissed from school in January. He was readmitted Aug. 18.

The Bruins were to open the season Saturday against Oklahoma State at the Rose Bowl. They were 6-7 last year — their first under coach Karl Dorrell.

Perry caught 35 passes for 698 yards two years ago. The 6-foot-3 receiver has 62 career receptions for 1,172 yards and three touchdowns.

Warriors release Jones

OAKLAND, Calif. — Forward Popeye Jones was released by the Golden State Warriors Friday.

The 6-foot-8 Jones played just five games in his only season with the Warriors, who acquired him last season in a trade with Dallas. Jones tore cartilage in his left knee Nov. 5 and was placed on the injured list a week later, missing 24 games.

A 12-year NBA veteran, Jones played for Toronto, Boston, Denver, Washington and two stints with the Mavericks.

Lyn's Smith undergoes knee surgery

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Lynx guard and gold medalist Kathy Smith underwent knee surgery Friday on her right knee and will miss the remainder of the season.

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Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



I am so proud of all the men & women who are making the sacrifice to leave their loved ones to defend this great country and our freedom. My Son is awaiting deployment with the Florida National Guard. My thoughts and prayers are for you all and I pray for your safety. Thanks for what you are doing. Debbie Gober

I am a combat veteran from the Viet Nam era. I know about the things that you think about in

combat. Even though I'm an old fart and have no desire to be in combat again, I work for a defense company that makes a lot of the precision weapons that you are using. I am with you in spirit and I hope that the things I help make will keep you safe. Mike Flood, USN



To All Our American and British Troops: Remembering each of you in our prayers to give you continued strength and to return you safely to your homeland. God bless you all - especially as you enter Baghdad. Thanks, from Pennsylvania, Pa.



Dear Gary, I miss you so much, and wish I could have seen you before you left. I hope to hear from you soon, Patricia Broadway

Federer cruises to fourth round

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For most tennis players, having the same number of clean winners and unforced errors translates into a pretty good performance.

Roger Federer is not like most tennis players. Not even close.

The top-seeded Federer moved a step closer to becoming the first man in 16 years to win three Grand Slam titles in a season, advancing to the U.S. Open's fourth round by beating No. 31 Fabrice Santoro 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 (7) on Saturday.

In a surprise, Belgium's Olivier Rochus defeated No. 3 seed Carlos Moya of Spain 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

Santoro is not an easy player to figure out. He hits two-handed off both sides, changes speeds constantly with a variety of spins and slices, and disguises it all so well.

Yet Federer was not fazed until late in the third set he made a few more mistakes, and he reacted to one by chopping the net with his racket. He won on his fifth match point in the tiebreaker, an entertaining exchange in which both players hit shots that popped high off the net.

Federer finished with 56 winners and 37 misuses, an impressive ratio. Santoro had 16 winners and 27 errors.

Federer erased the only break point he faced, while breaking the Frenchman four times.

It's the fourth straight year Federer has made the round of 16 at Flushing Meadows, but he's never been past that stage. To get to a possible quarterfinal showdown against two-time Open champion Andre Agassi, Federer will have to beat No. 16 Andre Pavel or unseeded Lee Hyung-taik.

In one early surprise, Shinobu Asagoe eliminated No. 13 Paula Suarez, a French Open semifinalist, 6-4, 6-4 to get to the Open's fourth round for the first time. Also, No. 22 Dominik Hrbaty beat No. 15 Paradorn Srichaphan 7-6 (8), 6-3, 6-3.

Federer has won three of the past five majors. In 2001, he's 6-6 record and four leading eight titles include the Australian Open and Wimbledon. In 1988, Mats Wilander won the Australian, French and U.S. Opens, losing only in the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Federer beat second-ranked Andy Roddick in the

final at the All England Club in July, and they could be headed for another title match in New York. On Friday night, Roddick scuffed his hand, berated the chair umpire and barely shook hands with Rafael Nadal when the match was over.

A tough outing for the defending U.S. Open champion?

Hardly. Roddick lost his concentration and a bit of his composure — "Watch the damn ball!" he shouted at umpire Andreas Egli — but still beat Nadal 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 on Friday to reach the third round.

There's something about a night session at the Open that kind of gets inside you a little bit," Roddick said.

Serena Williams toned down her outburst, saying "an earrring malfunction" was partly to blame. Her game also seemed a bit flat, though she beat 30th-seeded Tatiana Golovin 7-5, 6-4 to advance to the fourth round.

Williams overcame a 4-1 deficit in the first set and won despite making 42 unforced errors. The two-time

Open winner noticed that huge total on the big video screen at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I was playing two opponents: her and myself," Williams said.

The other favored women also moved on, with No. 2 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 6 Elena Dementieva, No. 8 Jennifer Capriati, No. 10 Vera Zvonareva and No. 15 Patty Schnyder winning. So did No. 16 Francesca Schiavone, who finished off popular wild card Angelika Haynes 6-3, 7-6 (3).

The men, however, had a much harder time. Last year's runner-up, No. 7 Juan Carlos Ferrero, was eliminated by Stefan Koubek 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-3. Also losing were eighth-seeded David Nalbandian, a semifinalist last year, and No. 12 Sebastian Grosjean.

When No. 23 Vince Spadea fell to Jürgen Melzer 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, only two U.S. men were left — Roddick and Agassi. Never before had fewer than three Americans reached the Open's third round.

Roddick tied his Open record with a 152 mph serve, smacked another big serve that caught Nadal in the hip and gave him the set.

Roddick skimmed his right hand when he slipped running to the net. He flexed it a few times later in the match, though he was able to grasp his racket just fine.



Tiger Woods, who has struggled to get the ball in play off the tee most of the year, hit nine of 14 fairways and averaged 326.5 yards per drive Friday in shooting a first-round 65. Woods' only victory this year was in the Match Play Championship in February.

AP

Woods, Palmer lead PGA event in Mass.

The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Even before he took the first-round lead of the Deutsche Bank Championship, Tiger Woods was having a good day.

Mark O'Meara, Woods' neighbor and mentor, was the leader in the clubhouse when Woods teed off in the afternoon at the TPC of Boston. Woods then went out and shot a 6-under 65 to tie for the lead with Ryan Palmer, one stroke ahead of O'Meara and two others.

"Any time you have one of your best buds up there top of the board, it's always cool," Woods said. "Mark, boy, he's been like a big brother, really. To have him basically take me under his wing and show me the ropes of the tour, that's something I'll never forget."

"I couldn't have asked for a better person to be in my life."

Woods, who's won just once this year to jeopardize his world No. 1 ranking, has a first-round lead for the first time since he won the 2003 Western Open. He has won eight of the past 10 tournaments when he's led after shooting the lead after Round 1.

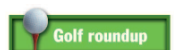
"It's certainly nice [that] ... I don't have to go out there and shoot a round like this just to try and make the cut," Woods said. "It's nice to be able to actually get off to a positive start like this."

A sort of unofficial host of the tournament that benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation, Woods has promised to donate his winnings to the charity. He makes the same pledge in the Target World Challenge, an event he has won once and finished second in twice.

O'Meara, 47, won in Dubai this year but he admitted he didn't figure to be a threat on the 7,415-yard, par-71 course.

"Golf is a fickle game and it's been a battle the last two or three years," he said. "We've certainly seen some of the older players play pretty well, so hopefully I can keep it up this week."

O'Meara was tied with Cameron Beckman and Jonathan Byrd at 5-under. Five were tied at two strokes back and Vijay Singh, who could take over the top spot



in the world rankings if he finishes higher than Woods, was among 10 tied at 3-under.

Adam Scott, who won the inaugural event last year, was four strokes back with a 69.

Starting on No. 10, Woods was 4-under on the back nine and 2-under on the front. He may not make any putts from more than 20 feet, but hit nine of 14 fairways to help set up short birdie putts.

Jimenez leads Euro Masters

CRANS-URP-SIERRE, Switzerland — Miguel Angel Jimenez shot 5-under-par 66 Saturday to regain the lead in the European Masters with Ryder Cup teammates Luke Donald and Sergio Garcia one stroke behind.

Donald carded a 65 and Garcia, the leader after two rounds, shot 68.

The three are the only Ryder Cup players in the field. But they should be wary in Sunday's final round with four players just four strokes off the lead: Eduardo Romero (67), Ernie Els (66), Graeme McDowell (66) and Craig Spence (66).

Defending champion Els made three birdies on the last five holes.

Donald's 65 was the best of the day, highlighted by five birdies in six holes around the turn, and an eagle on the par-5 14th with a 50-foot putt.

Kim ahead by four in LPGA State Farm Classic

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Christina Kim followed a record-tying opening round with a 6-under 66 on Friday to take a four-stroke lead midway through the LPGA State Farm Classic.

One day after matching the course record of 10-under 62, Kim finished at 16-under 128 at Rail Golf Course.

Cristie Kerr surged into contention, matching her career-best with a 9-under 63 to get to 12-under 132. Jennifer Resales moved to 11-under after a second-round 7-under 65.

U.S. topples Slovakia for its first victory in World Cup of Hockey

BY ANDRES YBARRA
The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Upset by the lackluster play of some veterans, Team USA coach Ron Wilson benched Brett Hull and three other regulars.

Wilson described the move as "the most difficult decision I've made as a coach."

But it worked. With younger, fresher legs, the U.S. team finally showed some energy in the World Cup of Hockey, beating Slovakia 3-1 Friday for its first victory in the tournament.

"Now, we have an opportunity to still play here on Tuesday, which is a great boost for us," Dallas Stars forward Mike Modano said.

Bill Guerin, Jason Blake and Bryan Smolinski scored for the Americans, who moved into third place in the North American Division. Slovakia (0-2) dropped to fourth.

Wilson beats Slovakia on Sunday, the United States will finish third in the North American pool and play the second-place team in its pool, either Canada or Russia.

"We needed to get back at each other and start over again," Slovakian forward Marian Gaborik said.

After being outworked against Canada and Russia, the Americans responded with their best offensive output of the tournament, outshooting Slovakia 39-17. The U.S. had 24 shots against Canada and 21 against Russia, scoring only one goal in each game.

Wilson started goaltender Rick DiPietro, resting Robert Esche after the Philadelphia Flyers' netminder dropped 17 shots against Canada and Russia. DiPietro didn't face nearly the same barrage against Slovakia, making 16 saves.



AP

Bill Guerin, right, beat Slovakian goalie Jan Lasak, left, on a breakaway with 3:43 remaining to cap the scoring Friday in the Americans' 3-1 victory.

But the Americans were more physical against Slovakia and played smothering defense in the second and third periods.

"We did a much better job up ice, establishing our forecheck," Wilson said.

After Thursday night's 3-1 loss to the Russians, a frustrated Wilson shuffled his lineup because the team lacked energy. He scratched Hull, Craig Conroy, Brian Rolston and Eric Weinrich. Wilson said Hull took the decision "like a professional."

"We just try to get better as the tournament goes on, and we feel like maybe we turned the corner in knowing what we need to do," Modano said.

Asked if he would keep the same lineup for the next game, Wilson said: "If I can procrastinate on that one, I will."

SPORTS



Final preseason start shows
Palmer ready to take over
as Bengals QB, Page 29

Days are growing short

Tight playoff races, milestones promise exciting final month

By BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

For Barry Bonds, Ichiro Suzuki and half the teams in the major leagues, Labor Day means one thing: Be it playoff races or record chases, there's still a lot of work to be done.

Ray Durham, for one, is eager to begin the stretch drive.

"The month of September is fun," the San Francisco lead-off man said. "I've always heard people say they don't really watch the first half of the season anyway because the most exciting time in baseball is after the All-Star break. It's true."

"I think a bad week or so can definitely kill a team that's in contention. Or vice versa, a team can have a good week or a good two weeks the last month of the season and could win the wild card — like the Marlins did. It propelled them into the playoffs and into the World Series," he said.

What a wild card scramble it is this year, heading down to the final regular-season game on Oct. 3. And for good reason — baseball's last two champions, Anaheim and then Florida — came from that extra postseason slot.

World Series MVP Josh Beckett and Florida are now making a late push in the NL, so are Roger Clemens and his Houston Astros, and San Diego is in it, too. So is Mr. Bonds, with his 697 career home runs and a shot at a seventh MVP award. Going into the weekend, those teams were all within three games of the NL wild-card leaders, Sammy Sosa and the Chicago Cubs.

That's good news for the pursuers, based on recent history. No club has ever overcome a September deficit of more than three games to win the wild card, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The 2001 Cardinals and 2002 Giants were both exactly three games back early in the month before earning their way in.

"It's almost like it was last season — we know we can come back," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said.

Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling and the Boston Red Sox showed signs of pulling away for the AL wild card as they won nine straight going into the weekend, dropping back Anaheim and Texas.

With six games left against the New York Yankees, the Red Sox still were within striking range of their age-old rivals. Then again, Derek Jeter, Gary Sheffield the Yankees are looking for a lot more than the wild card, despite a rotation that's been shaky of late.

Only another championship will satisfy George Steinbrenner and anyone else who takes pride in the pinstripes.

"The Boss is always going to give you the opportunity to get there because he's going to spend the money to put people in your clubhouse. I think everybody is very disappointed if the ultimate doesn't happen," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

SEE SEPTEMBER ON PAGE 23

September

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30		



**Brown loses to Orioles,
then breaks left hand
punching clubhouse wall**
Page 23

**Federer flawless in
reaching fourth round
of U.S. Open**

Page 31



**13th-ranked Cal
breaks loose
in second half,
routs Air Force**

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY
CHRISTOPHER SIX/
Stars and Stripes